

THE GATEWAY

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ONLY A FEW WILL COME OUT ON TOP Voting for Students' Union elections will occur this Wednesday and Thursday. Check out pages 4-6 for the second round of candidate interviews.

Activist bishop brings human rights message to campus

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, a man who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times and survived several attempts on his life for his views on aboriginal rights, spoke at the University of Alberta last Thursday for the seventh annual Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights.

80-year-old Garcia is best known for his fight for indigenous rights in the Mexican state of Chiapas, home to some of the most impoverished people in the world. He served as Bishop of Chiapas from 1959 to 1999 and is currently president of the Oscar Romero Christian International Secretariat of Solidarity with the Peoples of Latin America (SISCAL).

After moving introductions by Lieutenant-Governor Lois Hole and PhD student Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez on some of her own experiences as an aboriginal, Garcia took the stage.

"Although I feel undeservedly honoured by this acknowledgement, it saddens me that to denounce human rights abuses isn't enough to prevent them. This is the case of the violation of the human rights of the indigenous people," he said, speaking through translator Ricardo Acuña. "The theme of human rights is one that has only recently gained importance in Mexico. We can say that up until now we have moved in a dynamic that ignores the reality of the indigenous and why they are destined to be exterminated, dominated, or culturally absorbed."

Bishop Garcia was one of the main founders of Liberation Theology, a movement that attempts to combine Catholicism with the promotion of peace and human rights. He spent a large portion of his speech focusing on the role the Catholic church needs to assume if human rights are to be promoted worldwide.

"It is clear that it is within the will of God that indigenous people can preserve their cultural and religious traditions. There are not two histories: one that is profane and one that is the

history of salvation," he explained. "Rather, God can reveal Himself in the history, religion, and culture of the indigenous."

He went on to discuss the importance of having an awareness of history if indigenous people wish to maintain their culture.

"The indigenous peoples should be subjects of their own histories. The church should revise the life of its members, especially those agents with an eye to collective conversion."

PLEASE SEE BISHOP • PAGE 3



FIGHTING FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia. SHAWN BENBOW

Baby talk sheds light on origins of literary art

DAVID BERRY
News Writer

According to University of Alberta English professor Dr. David Miall's most recent findings, that C you got in your poetry class last semester might not be so excusable.

Miall, in consultation with Dr. Ellen Dissanayake of the University of Washington, recently released a paper entitled "The Poetics of Babytalk" in the respected humanities journal *Human Nature*. In it, he shows a direct link between the simple sounds and speech patterns of babies and advanced literary works, especially poetry.

Miall designed a computer program that analyzes texts and categorizes within them the basic elements of speech, called phonemes.

After applying it to various texts such as Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Miall decided to apply it to a transcript of baby talk he received from Dissanayake when she was the U of A in 1998 as a visiting scholar.

"It was really a curiosity thing. Dissanayake and I got together, and one of the things that she'd been looking at was the language of children and mothers with infants," recalled Miall.

"She played me a tape of baby talk and said, 'Isn't this interesting: doesn't that sound poetic?' and I agreed. It occurred to me later as I was developing a phonetic analysis program that I should try it on the baby talk to see what happened."

What happened is that Miall, whose primary teaching interest is Romantic literature, especially poetry, noticed some remarkable similarities between simple baby talk and the structure and language of poetry.

"I was able to show that it was very rich with poetic features," explained Miall.

"It occurred to me later as I was developing a phonetic analysis program that I should try it on the baby talk to see what happened ... I was able to show that it was very rich with poetic features."

DR DAVID MIALL,
U OF A ENGLISH PROFESSOR

"I divided it first into verses and lines, and then analyzed things like thematic variations that it shows from one verse to the next. I also found things such as alliteration, where you get repeated vowel or consonant sounds—it was full of features like that. In the baby talk, the patterns tend to last longer, they're more persistent and they tend to be more exaggerated, but many of the same features are there when you compare baby speech with adult poetry."

PLEASE SEE BABY TALK • PAGE 3



12 They come out of nowhere, spreading like a disease until they're covering every flat surface on campus. No, not silverfish—SU election posters! Check out our annual critique.

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Outside

Tuesday An infectious, acute, upper respiratory illness. High 8-Low -10
Wednesday Caused by the Epstein-Barr virus; High 7-Low -12
Thursday Often referred to as the kissing disease; High 4-Low -10
Friday Common symptoms include sore throat and weakness; High 3-Low 8
Source: Environment Canada

From the archives

A 29-year-old woman witnessed an incident of exposure while in a second-floor study area of the Education Building's north wing. The man was wearing nothing but a charcoal-grey nylon over his face and a condom on his penis. The woman, who remained unnamed, became outraged when the man began to masturbate in front of her and decided to pursue him. He left the study area and escaped when the women slipped on the stairs. Several similar assaults on women are known to have taken place in the Education Building. Campus Security said many assaults are not reported because the accused are innocent until proven guilty, and that puts the onus on the victim.

1977



16 Unlike Bill Murray, two Pandas teams actually won something this weekend. The volleyball team won in exciting fashion over Calgary while the hockey players coasted with ease.

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colophon

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and weights of (Baskerville, Garamond, and Arno). The
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David Orchard discusses globalization

CASSIE BROWN
News WriterFormer Progressive Conservative
leadership candidate and fervent
free-trade opponent David Orchard
was on campus Thursday to dis-
cuss globalization and its impact on
Canadians.Orchard addressed a group of nearly
40 community members who came to
campus to hear him speak. He played
off the emotions of the crowd, using
his charisma to call for a reunification
of Canada through renegotiation
of the North American Free Trade
Agreement (NAFTA).Orchard is known for his vehement
opposition of free trade. During the
1980s, he frequently lobbied the
Mulroney government to find an alterna-
tive means of increasing Canada's
international economic position with-
out opening our country to exploita-
tion by the Americans.While the crowd listened attentively,
Orchard explained how Canadians
have suffered because of NAFTA."We were told that the NAFTA
would bring lower prices, more
employment, and secure access to
American markets. In almost every one
of these categories, the opposite has
proven to be true," he explained.He backed up his claims with sta-
tistics, such as the fact that 10 000
Canadian companies have been taken
over by American corporate giants
since the agreement was signed in
1994. Canada's productivity gap with
the US has widened, and our share
of the American market has fallen.
He said that Canada's Gross Domestic
Product (GDP) is currently 80th in the
world, where it once ranked in the top
ten."We depend on the Americans for
90 per cent of our trade, yet we mean
nothing to them as a trading partner,"
he explained.As an organic farmer from
Saskatchewan, Orchard knows first-
hand the economic injuries suffered
by Canada's farming industry in the
last decade."We were told by the Mulroney
government that agriculture was not
on the table [when it came to NAFTA
discussions]. When the agreement was
signed, we lost our ability to charge
American buyers a higher price than
Canadians."

As a result of this, Saskatchewan

farmers have experienced a 170 per
cent drop in income over the past
year. Farmers' incomes have been
driven to the lower real levels than in
1950, according to Orchard.**"We were told that
NAFTA would bring
lower prices, more
employment and
secure access to
American markets.
In almost every one
of these categories, the
opposite has proven
to be true."**DAVID ORCHARD,
FREE-TRADE OPPONENTHe pointed out the irony of the Mad
Cow crisis last summer that caused
American borders to ban Canadian
beef imports. While western Canadians
were slaughtering cattle en masse and
selling it for fractions of its worth, east-ern Canadians were still importing it at
full price from south of the border.Other areas of the Canadian
economy that Orchard identified as
having suffered from NAFTA were the
oil and gas sector, the health indus-
try, and the fishing industry. He
criticized the government for not
demanding a larger royalty from the
US for oil and gas."Both Alaska and Norway get more
royalties from the Americans than we
do," said Orchard.Following his speech, Orchard
entertained questions from the audi-
ence, most of which seemed to be
asking for guidance from him. Con-
stituents wondered which political
party they should support ("you
must decide that for yourselves," he
said), if Orchard planned to join the
NDP ("undecided"), and what the
future of Canada's free trade agree-
ments would be.[Canadian author] John Ralston
Saul recently commented that the era
of globalization is over, and further-
more it was a spectacular failure," he
replied. "I think that Canadians are
beginning to realize this as well."

EXPLAINING NAFTA Politician David Orchard speaks on campus last Thursday.

Garcia blames
neo-liberalism
for oppression

BISHOP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The only sure hope for a better
future for our church resides in an
evangelization that is new, serious,
profound, acculturated, missionary,
programmed, and committed," he
said."It is about listening to the funda-
mental questions that the peoples of
America are asking in a multitude of
languages. And as long as there con-
tinues to exist models of a church
inherited from centuries past, this is
not possible."**"The national colonial
relationship lived by
indigenous peoples
makes poverty seem
like part of what they
are, almost justifying
their oppression ..."**BISHOP SAMUEL RUIZ GARCIA,
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS ADVOCATETo Garcia, indigenous oppression is
not God's will, but rather a result of a
neo-liberal society in which colonial-
ism is justified and institutionalized."The national colonial relationship
lived by indigenous peoples makes
poverty seem like part of what they
are, almost justifying their oppression
as if it were a violation to request the
rights to be different," he stated."The sum of the abuses, the tricks,
and the impunity is so high that it
appears to us as if it were a normal
situation. It appears to the aboriginals
themselves that it is their destiny to
occupy the bottom floor of society by
divine will."To Garcia, it is time to create a
"church of the poor" that does not
proliferate human rights abuses, but
rather stops them in their tracks."Never again should there be a
church on this continent without the
presence of its indigenous peoples," he
said. "As such, the church has a special
mission to be the defender and pro-
moter of a culture of life. This culture
of life is then expressed as a culture of
hope, constructed in the image of the
defeated."

STREETERS

Recently, the *Edmonton Sun* stated in an article that one in four University of Alberta students currently
has a sexually transmitted disease.

Do you think this statistic is accurate?

Tim Tilston
Engineering IMeagan
Maruyama
Biological
Sciences IChris Yang
Engineering II have no idea, and it wouldn't be me,
that's guaranteed. I would assume that
this statistic would be fairly accurate.Yes, because the classification of "STD"
covers a wide range of diseases. They
aren't even called diseases anymore,
they're STIs. Sexually Transmitted
Infections. So you can have anything
from chlamydia to gonorrhea to genital
warts to even cold sores.No, it's probably not accurate because
probably half the people just lied to try
to be funny. I mean, these five guys are
vigns [pointing to his friends], so obvi-
ously none of them have STDs. People
are just joking around or just they
just asked all of the STD-infested crowd.

Compiled and photographed by Sarah Henayak and Cosanna Preston



SHAWN BENBOW

CORRECTING MISTAKES Judy Hancock, health education coordinator at the University Health Centre.

Sun's STD claims false, says Health Centre

ROSS MOROZ
News Writer

A news report claiming that 25 per cent of University of Alberta students are currently infected with a sexually transmitted disease has surprised students and U of A health officials alike, causing some to question the story's validity.

The article, which appeared in the 22 February edition of the *Edmonton Sun* and ran under the headline "U of A alarm," states that "one in four University of Alberta students currently have a sexually transmitted disease." In a follow-up piece, headlined "Students horrified," it is reiterated that "some 7500 [students]—or a quarter of the student population—currently have some form of STD."

According to the *Sun* story, these numbers were extrapolated from information provided by Judy Hancock, health education coordinator at the University Health Centre, but Hancock takes issue with the way the information was presented.

"It's a total misrepresentation," said an noticeably annoyed Hancock.

"We have no way of knowing how many U of A students have an STD, but the *Sun* reporter, despite it being made abundantly clear to him how I arrived at my statistics, decided to spin it that way."

Hancock admits that she told the *Sun* that statistics indicate that about one in four Canadians will contract some kind of sexually transmitted infection before their 25th birthday, but is quick to point out that these sta-

istics are "only relevant to the U of A because that's our demographic."

"I thought that it was a very unfair to represent the U of A like that," she added.

"If anything, if you are at the U of A, because of the resources and education available to you, you probably have a much lower chance of being infected than the general population."

"We have no way of knowing how many U of A students have an STD, but the *Sun* reporter, despite it being made abundantly clear to him how I arrived at my statistics, decided to spin it that way."

JUDY HANCOCK,
UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE HEALTH
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Despite these criticisms, the reporter who wrote the story maintains that he did not misrepresent the facts.

"Our story was based entirely on comments she made," said *Edmonton Sun* reporter Shane Holladay, who also pointed out that "the statements she made were supported by other people."

"There are many times when people claim that they have been misrepresented after a story becomes contro-

versial," said Holladay in response to Hancock's criticisms.

"Unfortunately, the *Sun* is kind of an easy target for this kind of thing."

The accuracy of Holladay's story notwithstanding, one provincial public health official hopes that these numbers cause students to be more aware of the consequences of their sexual behaviour.

"[The one in four] number is not supported by any direct information; the only way to arrive at that figure accurately is to test every student at the U of A," said Dr Ameet Singh, the infectious diseases consultant for Alberta Health and Wellness.

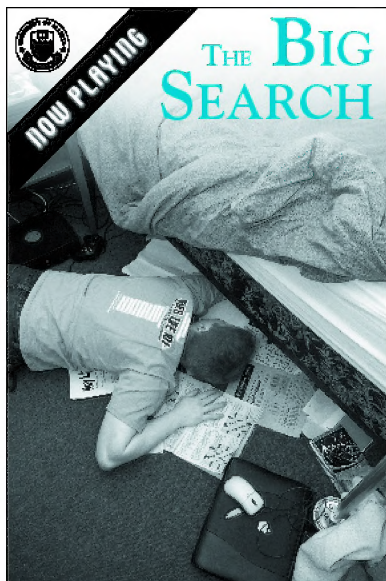
"But, having said that, it's probably not an unreasonable estimate, based on studies done in other parts of the country."

Dr Singh thinks that regardless of how many U of A students are currently carrying a sexually transmitted disease, the problem is probably worse than most students would like to admit.

"What we do know for sure is that overall the rate of STDs is rising in Alberta, chlamydia being the most common," she explained. "Seventy-five per cent of the chlamydia reported in Alberta occurs in the 15- to 24-year-old age group. Presumably some of those 15- to 24-year-olds are university students."

And while it may sound like a cliché to University students who have grown up with safe sex messages, Dr Singh still maintains that "the most important way to curb this rise is education."

"Education is the best tool we have at our disposal."



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Creative abilities emerge in early infancy: researcher

BABY TALK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This poetic nature of baby talk could extend far beyond simple language and shape the creation and appreciation of all kinds of art, according to Miall.

"You can see this ability as early as the first few weeks after birth, and our argument is that then lays the foundation for later aesthetic appreciation," noted Miall.

"It's probably not even only for literature, but also for other temporal arts like music or dance. We've focused mostly on the language side of it, but you also have to understand that the baby doesn't know what the mother is saying—it's a kind of multimedia performance for the baby, with body language and facial expressions and so on all playing into the effect on the baby and the baby's participation in it."

Miall is interested in using his research findings to examine how language skills are developed as children



COSANNA PRESTON

English professor Dr David Miall discusses the poetics of baby talk.

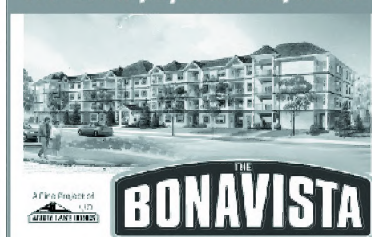
grows older.

"I would like to follow up on some of the implications of this for the first three years of life, where we can begin to see the child developing its own

language abilities and this ability to play with language," he said.

"That would be a really interesting thing to do, and I don't know of anyone who is doing that kind of research."

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IRSHAD MANJI

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- One of *"100 Canadians to Watch"*, *Maclean's* magazine
- *"Person of the Year 2003"*, *Maclean's* magazine

A portion of Mr. Manji's book sales will be donated to the Jewish Community Foundation of Edmonton

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Candidates want to improve your Student Life

KRISTINE OWRAM
Kristine OWRAM

The position of Vice-President (Student Life) works, in conjunction with campus departments and student groups, to deal with all non-academic issues on campus and make sure your university experience is a fun one.

This year's candidates include Duncan Taylor, Carmen Gustafson, Tyler Daignault, and Michael Schwake.

1 The job of the VP (Student Life) is relatively low-profile in between major events. What do you see as the most important part of the job besides organizing events for students?

Taylor: Besides organizing events, the biggest part of the portfolio is working on the issues that have fallen through the cracks these past few years, especially student services and student groups. In my opinion, I think student groups is one area on campus that goes relatively unexplored. The second thing is services, really getting involved in those. So between Antifreeze and WOW, I think the VP (SL) has to be working on the lower profile things, the stuff that doesn't involve cheering in Quad, but stuff that is still very important to student experience.



Duncan Taylor.

Gustafson: I think we need to improve the overall quality of life on campus. I would actually like to see the portfolio take a little bit of the focus away from the events. Something I'd like to look into is advocating for a student healthcare plan and strengthening student services, because that's really the frontline of the Students' Union. Also I'd like to look at enforcing an ethical buying policy and broadening that to a sweatshop-free campus if possible.

Daignault: Besides organizing events, it's basically just keeping students up to date with new events and new programming. I would give the students a constant events schedule with no gaps. An event I have in mind is something called Student Services Week, which takes all the services, University and Students' Union, and we're going to run this on the main floor of SUB, and it's going to put the visibility and recognition of these services forward." If we can give students the solutions when the actual problems start arising, it's better than them trying to remember where to go and what to do.

Schwake: I'd say there's a lot of areas that have been overlooked, and one of the things I've tried to deal with is balancing hands-on and administrative dynamics in working with the portfolio. There's everything from varsity to parking and housing, and those things have been relatively looked over in the past, and that's something I'd actually like to focus on.

2 How do you plan on increasing student interest in events like the Week of Welcome and Antifreeze?

Taylor: The first thing I want to do is look at expanding them. Right now,

if you look at WOW and Antifreeze, they're very much centered in Quad, and one of the things I'd like to do is move them to different areas of campus. Another thing that I had in mind is that, right now, in order to participate in the Antifreeze events, you have to be on a team. I'd like to have a couple events along the lines of WOW, where people just walking by or people who aren't on a team can participate.



Carmen Gustafson.

Gustafson: I'd like to broaden the range of people that come. Attendance is pretty low, and I'd like to work more with the Student Activities Coordinator and the Student Life Board. I've heard all kinds of suggestions, like running a UBC-style party where we have five bands in the Agrium or something like that, but that may not be feasible right away. Another reason why we don't have high-quality bands is that we leave planning WOW until May. It's getting a little bit late to try and get somebody, so it would be better to start that process a little bit sooner.

Daignault: Basically what we have to do is organize events that the actual students want. Specifically for Week of Welcome, the biggest thing is the concert event on the weekend. The last two years, we've brought in bands who weren't exactly universally known. I'd like to propose we get together with other schools and say, "let's hold a big concert where all these schools can get together instead of competing." As for Antifreeze, there definitely needs to be more consistency in how things are judged. Pricing is another big thing: I would love say what our prizes are right off the bat.



Michael Schwake.

Schwake: I'd like to return Antifreeze to the outdoors and give it more of a presence and have less subjective judging, as well as approach individual student groups and associations to be involved in it. It's important to be more hands-on with students, and that's really the whole idea—to balance the hands-on and administrative aspects of the job.

3 What new initiatives would you like to see as next year's VP (Student Life)?

Taylor: Next year, I'd like to focus on student health issues. I'd really like to try to work on burn-out. I'd like to make the Exec and the SU more visible during times of high stress like midterms and finals. Chilling down in SUB, giving out hot chocolate, study tips, little pieces of bubble wrap, whatever, just things to relieve the stress and remind people that there's more to life than just exams.

Gustafson: I'd really like to look into a "students looking after students" model for food services, and expand-

ing the availability of food sources on campus. I also think the events we have could have more of a focus towards some of the issues. We could have a major garage sale. Lots of stuff from Lister goes in the garbage, so we're addressing things like student poverty on campus, but we're also building a community at the same time. I'd also like to take the initiative to improve attendance at elections. I'd like to see more fun things, like an election kick-off party where people can actually come and talk to their representatives.

Daignault: What I really want to focus on is bringing back the Powerplant to its former glory. Four or five years ago, it used to be the place to be in south Edmonton. What I would love is for student groups to adopt a night. They would run the door, run the coat check, and would get a certain percentage of the overhead. The Powerplant needs to start being more consistent. As well, the service to both RATT and the Powerplant could be handled a little differently. I've seen way too many Friday nights where there's one server working. I would love to look into having the Plant have an official server-training program.



SHAWN BENBOW

Tyler Daignault.

Schwake: I'd like to have a town hall forum. Also, I'd like to bring back certain initiatives, like the Orientation after-party, which was an all-ages event instead of having everyone rush off to the Powerplant, which really excludes a large part of the new student population. I also want to create a student services directory so that students have a better idea of how to take advantage of the many services that are available. All in all, I'd much rather say "we've had a great year" than "we've had one great event."

4 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

Taylor: I'd probably say a bear. There's this one TV commercial where this guy steals a fish from a bear, the bear tries to fight back, and he just kicks him in the nuts. I'd know the strategy for the bear, but with the gorilla—I don't know. My experience with gorillas is limited to the movie *Congo*.

Gustafson: I'd way rather fight a bear, because I know a little bit about bears. Bears are actually one of my favourite species, and I think I understand the psychology of a bear much better than a gorilla.

Daignault: I would say a gorilla. You can go over your similarities: we're both members of the two thumbs club, we both have a penchant for worshipping tall black monoliths, and from time to time in human history, whether it's the past or the future, we've enslaved human kind.

Schwake: If you ever saw the movie *Congo*, gorillas can go apeshit, so I'd rather fight a bear, unless it was a Golden Bear or a Panda bear, because then that's not cool fighting one of your own. But just give me a razor blade; I'd shave the bear, and then he'd be embarrassed and I'd take him down.

Presidential candidates focus on student input

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

The President is responsible for representing U of A students in the larger community and for the overall policy and operational direction of the Students' Union. This year's two candidates are Jordan Blatz, president of the Lister Hall Students' Association, and Adam Cook, SU business councillor.

1 If elected, what is the most important thing you would like to focus on in the upcoming year?

Blatz: It is something that is focused on every year, but the most important thing I want to focus on is tuition. The reason I want to focus on tuition this year, that much more than in previous years, is because there is going to be both a federal and provincial election. This year, more than ever, students need to have their voices heard by the government when they are most likely to listen to us, which is during an election time.



Adam Cook.

Cook: The most important thing would be making the Students' Union respected. Right now we do a lot of different things and have a lot of different services for students, but the most important thing to remember is that we have to be a respectable organization both in our lobbying efforts and in our services and how we pro-

vide those services to students.

2 For the past several years, the tuition battle has ended in a hike for undergraduate students. What new ideas do you hope to bring to this issue?

Blatz: I want to get all the students to vote in both the provincial and federal elections. If we have to organize transportation to take students to forums to hear candidates or to a polling station, we'll do that. If we can show the provincial government that students are going to vote accordingly in the next election, then that will be an effective way to get the government to listen to us.

I also want to continue with community outreach programmes and talking to people of wide demographics that vote. I want to change the focus of the annual tuition campaign from a protest to a celebration of post-secondary education. If we celebrate, the whole University of Alberta can send a message to the government. My idea for the campaign would lead up to a massive concert in Quid.

Cook: We are never going to win the battle at the Board of Governors meeting. The battle is won at the province, with the public. It is long-term problem and a long-term effort that we have to make to get a solid campaign out there using the variety of stakeholders that we have: other universities, the administration, and other interest groups concerned with post-secondary education.

3 You are the public figure for the Students' Union. If elected, what will you do to bring the SU out from behind the scenes and into the minds of students?

Blatz: That is the biggest area the Students' Union needs to work on. To be accessible to the students and

approachable is something that is really important to me as President, and if elected I want to promise to the students that if they send me an e-mail with a question, a comment or concern I will personally e-mail them back. I am there for students. If I am busy and a student stops by, I will make time to see them. I want to be visible as President.

Cook: It is about getting out there. We can't just spend all our time up in our offices. We have to get out there and spend time with students. That's who we are representing. We also have to keep in touch with what they think and what they want. That just means getting out there, talking to students on a daily basis, going to classes, and really being out there.



Jordan Blatz.

4 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

Blatz: Chad, the Chief Returning Officer, answered this question in *Streeters*, and he said "I would rather fight a bear because it would be a more effective practice because you are more likely to come across a bear in Alberta than a gorilla." I thought that was a good answer to that, so I'd quote the CRO for the answer to that question.

Cook: Probably a gorilla, because we all know the Bears are the U of A's team and they win all the time. I wouldn't want to fight against that winning streak.

Lobbying gov't common goal in External race

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

The Vice-President (External) is responsible for student communication with government, but also with many non-governmental organizations. The position also entails building links with the community.

This year, two candidates are vying for the position: arts councilors Heather Wallace and Alex Abboud.

1 What would you do to enhance the working relationship between the U of A and Alberta Learning?



Alex Abboud.

Wallace: It's all about communication, organization and enthusiasm. The one big thing is that we really need to get on advocacy, simply to get the people of the province focusing more on Alberta Learning. That comes into tune with getting them out to vote, and getting the information out that they need.

Abboud: I think the two bodies have one goal. We want more funding at our respective levels of education, and we also want to preserve or enhance

the quality. So one of the things I'd like to work on is raising the image and raising awareness of education. And I think we could partner with Alberta Learning on this initiative.

2 Part of this portfolio is to communicate with other external groups besides the government. How would you fulfill this job requirement?

Wallace: It is about lobbying. It is getting in there and talking with policy makers. Provincially, I think we need to focus on the people of the province. The provincial government's incredibly good at ignoring us—they've been doing it for many, many years—and we're not having the sway. Federally, we're not represented by any federal lobbying group, so it's important that we're out there.

Abboud: First of all, I'd like to get involved with groups we have a connection to on campus. Also, I'd like to work closer with residences and student groups, because a lot of our student groups have connections to off-campus groups that we don't. And same with student volunteer groups. My second goal would be working with things like education and groups that are friendly to postsecondary.

3 What do you see as the best source of action for the SU's relations with the University administration as well as its lobbying strategies for the future?

Wallace: Working with the adminis-

tration is critical. I like the fact that we built a bridge this year and that we're talking to the University and making sure that when we have issues we're working with them. Because right now we need to focus on the people of the province—the taxpayers—and make sure they know what we're facing on this campus.

Abboud: I think the important thing is to find common goals and common areas where we can cooperate. I would say our lobbying strategy should be stronger, not louder. And while I see the importance of doing rallies and mobilizing our support group on campus, we have to make more of an appeal to average Albertans.



Heather Wallace.

4 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

Wallace: I think I'd rather fight a gorilla. Just because bears eat you, don't they? Gorillas wouldn't eat you. See, that would frighten me.

Abboud: I think I'd like to fight a bear. It would be a cleaner fight with a bear. Gorillas fight dirty. I've seen a bear fight, so that'd be why.

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THE GATEWAY

Universal bus pass heads to referendum

JENNIFER ROLLS
News Writer

The notion of a universal bus pass (U-Pass) has been a subject of debate on campus for many years. The purpose of this year's referendum is to test student interest in the issue. If the "yes" side wins, the Students' Union will go ahead and continue negotiations with the Edmonton Transit System (ETS) for a bus pass costing \$60 per term per student. If the "no" side wins, negotiations will cease.

The question will be worded as follows: Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass subject to the following conditions:

- 1 That the pass would provide unlimited access to participating municipal transit systems during the Fall and Winter terms.
- 2 That the pass would cost each student a maximum of \$60.00 per Fall or Winter term.
- 3 That the pass would be mandatory for all undergraduate students except:

- a) Students not residing in a municipality served by a participating municipal transit system;
- b) Students, who are for an entire term, not attending courses on the University of Alberta campus; and
- c) Students who, by reason of disability, are unable to make use of ordinary transit services.

4 That this referendum would bind the Students' Union to enter into an agreement on the terms outlined in this referendum as soon as possible; and

5 That this referendum would expire April 30, 2006.

The "yes" side of the referendum is being represented by Alex Hindle.

1 How do you think a universal bus pass will benefit students?

The "no" side of the referendum is being represented by Mustafa Hirji.

1 Why do you think a universal bus pass will not be beneficial to students?

Hirji: I think that it will benefit some students, but not all. I have three principle objections to it. First is that, it is essentially a \$120 dollar fee increase on students and it's not being directed towards students who can pay; it's on any student. So, of course there are going to be some students who are going to benefit from it. There are a lot of students who are not going to benefit from it, however; barely over 40 per cent of students take the bus regularly.

The second objection that I have is there is no negotiated deal that we are voting on. So we are essentially signing the contract without knowing what the other side of the contract is or who we are signing it with. And more importantly it opens us to abuse. It is legally binding on the SU to agree to any and all deals that conform to the principles set out. A lot of students don't know about opt-outs for other fees that the SU charges, such as the Access Fund or APING. You look at the opt-outs for those, and they are less than 100 people per term.

The third objection that I have when we fight the University with tuition and rent increases, is that it is to expensive and students can't

Hindle: It is going to save students money. We do know that the 53 per cent of students receive funding, so obviously students could use to save money. Also, instead of having car parks built, they might have learning facilities built or money for scholarships or something more valuable. It will get everyone to school quicker, since the roads will be less congested if there are less cars driving. With more people taking the bus, things will inevitably become faster and more efficient.



Alex Hindle.

2 What would you say to students who don't use transit and think there should be an opt-out clause?

Hindle: Generally there are many opportunities to take transit, and you would only have to take one trip a week to make it worth your while. Students who live in residence tend to become rather insular. I think that if they had the opportunity to get out and travel around the city a bit more, that's a good opportunity for them. And of course it is convenient if they need to get groceries or go shopping. The average student, according to the student transportation study commissioned by the SU completed in 2002, takes six trips a

afford to pay more. Now we are turning around and doing the exact same thing that the University does and charging more. That's hypocritical, and more importantly it kills our moral authority when we fight against tuition next year.

2 What would you say to students who use transit regularly and are paying over \$50 a month for a bus pass?

I myself am a bus user, so I pay the \$54 a month for my bus pass. I would say that if you are having trouble paying for transit then that's a problem, but the way to solve the problem isn't to take money from one set of students who do not take public transit and give it to students who do. That's the idea behind progressive taxation: you take money from those who don't need it and give it to those who do, and this system does not do that. It is arbitrarily choosing one class of students who use public transit to benefit and punishing a class of students who doesn't use public transit. We are not taking into account whether these students can afford it and whether or not these students need it.

3 Do you think the provision of an opt-out clause would make this initiative work?

I think that it would be less objectionable, because all of a sudden, if you are a student having trouble

week on transit. That corresponds to three return trips per week, so compared to the one required to make it worth your while, it is a good deal.

3 If a majority of students vote "yes" in this referendum, what do you see as the next step in this process?

Hindle: Well, then that would give the SU the authority to go out and negotiate deals with the transit authorities. They would have more leverage, obviously, because they can say with authority that we do want a U-Pass. That will be up to next year's SU. And they have two years to work something out; that's how long the referendum lasts.

4 Why do you personally support the U-Pass?

Hindle: It is sort of an ideological thing. I see lots of people who I know could easily take the bus, but they figure that a bus pass is \$54 a month and driving a car is not that much more expensive. Not only would that save them money personally, but it would have a major environmental impact in getting cars off the roads.

We should also bear in mind a lot of other Canadian universities have U-Passes. The U of A is getting a lot bigger. They are going to have to house these students somewhere, find classroom space for them, and if students continue to travel to school in the very unsustainable manner that they currently do, namely cars, I think the quality of the U of A will decline. There will be more congestion, people will be a lot slower in getting to school, and it is just going to be unpleasant. We should really be proactively dealing with this before the major influx of students occurs. We have to start now to provide the appropriate transportation infrastructure to get students to the University.

making ends meet or if you are not getting any value for it, you can opt out. Even then, it is not well known that opt-outs exist, and moreover you first have to pay for it and then ask for your money back. I think it would be better if there was an opt-out, but I don't think that it is the right idea. I don't see what the benefit of it is.



Mustafa Hirji.

4 Why are you personally against the idea of a universal bus pass?

I am coming at this from two angles: first, this is basically us turning around and doing what the University has done to us for all these years. This is killing our ability to stand on moral high ground when we attack tuition. The second thing is that there is a lot of misconception about what this referendum really is, a lot of people think that we are going to vote on this and we are going to get a U-Pass. I don't think they have really thought through the fact that we are redistributing money on arbitrary criteria, rather than based on needs criteria.

Women get nowhere playing the sexism game

ONLY THIN PEOPLE can wear horizontal stripes, only white wine goes with fish, and only men can be sexist. These are just a few of those stereotypes that have saturated the ever-dwindling collective gray matter of society. Sure, people who dine on sticks of butter for breakfast may look like over-stuffed sausages in certain patterns, and okay, red wine really does make fish taste like salty death, but contrary to popular belief, even girls can be sexist. Now that it's not the 1960s anymore, from mass media to education practices and hiring equality, it seems the battle of the sexes has taken a little too drastic a shift in favour of the fairer sex.

Reality TV may be a cheap forum for voyeuristic indulgence, but one thing I've learned from watching Donald Trump's new show *The Apprentice*—a program set up as an extended job interview where eight men and women compete to win a job as CEO of a Trump business—is that women are learning to use sexism to their advantage. In the opening episodes, the millionaire-wannabes were split into two teams, men and women, and then forced to battle one another by participating in various business tasks. From selling lemonade on the streets of New York by donning revealing attire and offering kisses with every purchase, to pitching an ad campaign that revolved around phallic-looking models of airplane parts while dressed as cutesy stewardesses, the women's team slaughtered the men in sales by using their bodies to push products. In fact, the women's collective—who all were supposedly chosen for the show for being "the top minds in business," but also happen to be extremely attractive—continued to use sex appeal so well that the show's creators recently had to reshuffle the teams just to ensure all the men wouldn't be kicked off.

Some say the actions of these women are liberating and empowering; however, in reality, it's just manipulative sexism that's been turned against men. Unfortunately, because men have been trained not to comment on unfair advantages being given to their breast-enhanced fellow workers, they haven't been able to do a thing about it. To a certain extent, men cannot be outspoken in society and in business because political correctness has oversensitized everyone to slights against women.

Now consider the fact that, in the '80s and '90s, many education systems were changed to be more "girl friendly" to compensate for the fact that studies showed they were lagging behind their male counterparts. Since then, girls have come to outnumber boys in universities across Canada—in 1999, Ontario university statistics showed there were 124,866 women enrolled in postsecondary institutions, compared to 105,119 men.

Then there are all the equal-opportunity hiring practices that are forced on employers; while altruistic in nature, legislating in the Employment Equity Act of Canada that all corporations must hire a certain number of females doesn't make logical sense. The act itself states its purpose as "to achieve equality in the workplace so that no person shall be denied employment opportunities or benefits for reasons unrelated to ability." But by forcing companies to hire women just to achieve equality in the workplace, other, better-suited candidates may be cast by the wayside.

In the faculty of computer science, for example, male enrolment numbers dwarf female numbers by a dramatic amount, so why should high-tech firms be forced into hiring women, and thus give them an advantage, if there are simply more men in that particular field?

Call me a liberalist, but isn't equality supposed to mean just that—equality? Being trained to not stand up to women for fear of hurt feelings, or worse yet, for fear of being called sexist, isn't equality. Catering education towards women, and applauding the fact that they are outnumbering men in higher education isn't equality. Neither is legislating hiring of women, or forcing men to be so sensitized to women's issues that they're unable to express honest opinion. Equality is a two-way street.

HEATHER ADLER
Arts and Entertainment Editor

LETTERS

Klein's good if you ignore everything he's done

Renee Nauta's letter to the editor ("Not everyone hates Klein's Conservatives," 24 February) asked us not to forget the "bad" that the Liberals have done to Alberta (for example, the National Energy Program) and stated that "it's our excellent memories that remind us what the Liberals have done or failed to do" for Albertans. It's funny how you remember some events yet completely forget about others. Remember that it is the Klein government that has forced tuition to be increased once again and that some students have to work two summer jobs in order to pursue postsecondary education. Don't forget that the use of the campus food bank has increased from 250 requests in 1991 to over 1700 this past year. Don't forget that the University has a \$28 million budgetary shortfall, which means not only future tuition increases, but higher parking rates, more cutbacks to departments and larger class sizes.

Let's not forget what the Klein government has done since 1993 when we attack the policies of the federal Liberals (some of which go back to the Trudeau era). It's interesting that Nauta supports a government which she believes will "strengthen Alberta's role in Confederation," while this same government is continually punishing Nauta's fellow students.

KANIHANA FERNANDO
Grad Studies I

Clean up after yourselves, you slobs

This just in: campus employees are not students' servants! Few things make me crankier than people who leave all their garbage on tables, only for employees—particularly CABs—to clean. With the number of garbage cans in close proximity, it is hardly a pain in the ass to walk your banana peel that way.

No one is above putting their own trash where it belongs, and no one should be making extra work for the employees. Service industry workers are not our slaves, and it shows a lack of respect to not perform this simple task.

RENEE FOOTZ
Education III

Sex and the City helped women

I really do care that Sex and the City ended this past week, unlike Daniel Kazor ("Sex and the City gone? Who cares?" 24 February).

It was revolutionary, not because the women were promiscuous, but because they were portrayed as strong thanks to their friendships and not their relationships with men. Some might say that Sex drew its fans simply because of the Manolo Blahnik shoes and the romanticized New York lifestyle. However, it was a show that changed how women view themselves and how men view women.



The characters helped all women to recognize that our personalities are multi-faceted, and at times we could see ourselves in each of the leading ladies. Women could relate to the impulsivity of Carrie, the sexuality of Samantha, the traditional desires of Charlotte, and the intelligence and stubbornness of Miranda. We could empathize with all the decisions the women made about love, sex and relationships.

The show also tackled things to which we can all relate such as unfaithfulness in a relationship, divorce, smoking cessation and breast cancer. Sex and the City may be ending, but it will be around for a long time. Sexuality will be viewed with wider eyes, men will better understand the value in female friendships, and at the very least, we have learned a thing or two about fashion.

ANNA GRIMSUD
Phys Ed IV

Provincial Liberals way better than Klein's Tories

Renee Nauta's letter to the editor ("Not everyone hates Klein's Conservatives," 24 February) was so filled with fallacies that I feel the need to straighten out the political immaturity of Nauta and her "students for Klein" ilk (a group that, I trust, can wholly fit its membership inside any one campus phone booth).

Perhaps Nauta truly believes that ever-increasing tuition fees are a small price to pay for good management of Alberta's economy. Okay, I suppose I could understand that point of view. But what about the billions of dollars that have been forced from Albertan households as a result of energy deregulation? Still justifiable? Or what about the \$40 million in subsidies to the horse racing industry? Does that kind of corporate welfare come before concerns of students, seniors, and educators?

And how about arrogance? If level of smugness that exists in the Tory ranks, then you certainly have not been paying attention. Or maybe you have. Perhaps you have no prob-

lems with a governing body that is drunk with power and possessing no fear of ever being forced out of office. Perhaps you have no problem with less than half of Klein's Conservative MLAs showing up for the last night of the Legislature's fall sitting. Maybe you find it perfectly acceptable that many of those Tories in attendance, as reported on 11 December by *Week Week*, spent the evening playing computer games, surfing the Internet, sleeping, and having an attention disorder on par with a restless junior high classroom while Bill 43 and other major laws were passed.

Hell, for all I know, maybe you view this repugnant waste of taxpayer's money on the salaries of smug politicians with a smile. If so, I would kindly suggest that Klein supporters remove their partisan blinders and recognize that for a democracy to have some semblance of a pulse, strong political competition needs to be present. In terms of arrogance and self-certainty, Jean Chrétien and Ralph Klein both are prime examples of democratic deficits at work.

And that's why, when Klein suddenly opens up his wallet and calls the next election, we should give these crumb-bum Tories representing Edmonton the boot and replace them with Liberals. Yes, Liberals. Nauta fails to realize that the provincial and federal Liberal parties are two totally separate and distinct entities. Nauta irrationally believes that Alberta Liberals would jump at the opportunity to allow Ottawa to pillage our economy and resources. Such an insane public policy approach would surely spell the political death of any of its initiators, so Nauta is simply out to lunch on this one. But it is true that some ideological overlap exists between the two parties (which can be expected between centrist parties), and it is also true that two Liberal MLAs have bowed out recently in favour of federal politics.

But that is not to say that most Alberta Liberals are cut from the same cloth as Paul Martin—I can tell you right now that, as an Alberta Liberal, my vote is certainly not going to Paul Martin's Liberal Party. Alberta Liberals are a pragmatic group with solid public policy alternatives, and in the desire of a healthier democ-

racy in Alberta, they deserve more of our support in the next election. It's time to give King Ralph's court a wake-up call.

JAMES LAMBERT
Arts I

Evolution not a rock-solid theory

I agree—evolution is more than just a buzzword ("Evolution is more than just a buzzword," 12 February). From taverns and town halls to classrooms and courtrooms, never before has one word stirred up so much controversy and debate. I too disagree with Kathy Cox, replacing evolution with a less value-laden phrase would just confuse the issue more. Besides, evolution means a lot more than "changes over time."

The author failed to do his homework before launching ad hominem attacks on those who follow the science. Not everyone who has "beloved creationist ideas" thinks the Pope. During the sixteenth century an event caused a split between Pope-believing Catholics and those basing their beliefs solely on the Bible. It is unfortunate for the Pope to mislead his flock but that has no bearing whatsoever on what creationists believe.

The author holds steady evolution "has so much evidence supporting it," but fails to back up his claim. Repeating over again "we evolved" does not prove that humans are mutated monkeys but does show what years of university indoctrination can do to one's ability to think critically. A favorite argument is our similarity of DNA to apes—98 per cent. Is this really a proof that we evolved? We share some 95 per cent of our DNA with bananas!

Evolution is not testable and therefore not good science. Creationists Mendel and Pasteur did good science. Mendel demonstrated a genetic barrier within kinds of species, thus destroying a basis for species evolution, and Pasteur put to rest any notion of spontaneous generation. In fact, every major branch of science was founded by someone who believed in a created world and not one that just popped into existence.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 10

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Manji is the perfect intelligence asset



AARON
BRAATEN

Whether you admit it or not, you are the child of the future. You, fellow students, will one day occupy the commanding heights of the state/market complex, and because of this your thoughts, actions and speech must not serve to undermine the ruling class's hegemony. The University exists insofar as it legitimizes the state; therefore, you must be consistently monitored to ensure that you will not subvert the social order. You will find yourself soon becoming more sympathetic towards the struggles of the elite and less sympathetic to the plight of the underclass.

One way of monitoring your progress is through your OneCard or your campus computing ID. While integral to campus intelligence gathering, OneCard and computing data are not the only means of monitoring you. It is probably a lot easier than you would like to think. Hint: think Irshad Manji.

A professor of mine once confided to me that during student uprisings of the past, RCMP and CSIS agents infiltrated this University in an attempt to subvert student groups and professors, particularly those in political science. Back then it was much bigger exception to the rule to have older students in the classroom, and intelligence agents were rather easy to spot (the old guy in the back who only took notes every time the professor said "Marx," "Marxist" and "Marxism"). The RCMP's phi-

losophy during the Cold War was that universities served as the incubators of the future state/market, and should communism take hold in the hearts of Canadian students, their minds would one day follow, thereby leading to the rise of a communist state.

As the Cold War waned, the need to monitor subversives—interpreted as "left-wing"—tapered off in the late 1980s. Now, it seems as though left-wing activists are about as impotent as John Wayne. Bobbit's private member would be if it were pickled in a 40oz bottle of Jack Daniels for 100 years. But, as President Bush and his cronies have repeated 64 000 times, the world forever changed after 11 September.

**Only a person like
Manji will draw out
a disproportionate
amount of
"fundamentalists"
who have read the
Koran 7000 times and
interpret it literally.**

What, then, to do with a bloated intelligence apparatus leftover from the Cold War era, where the "enemy" was easy to define, easy to defend against, and easy to infiltrate and subvert? In the new world order defined by President Bush (and promptly followed on cue by Prime Minister Martin), the need to monitor "terrorists"—interpreted as Muslim fundamentalists—maintains such an apparatus. Such an argument holds for CSIS as much as it does for the CIA, and no one is in a better condition to

monitor campus "Muslim extremism" than Irshad Manji.

In case you have been living under a rock or in a spider hole near Baghdad for the past six months, Manji is the controversial best-selling author of *The Trouble With Islam*, which describes a new direction for Islam that is safer for gays, Jews and Gentiles alike. Manji is billed as a "leader of tomorrow" by Maclean's magazine as well as other titles usually reserved for only Mohammed himself.

Given that the role of our nambypamby nanny state is to monitor the current of potentially subversive campus thought, if you think about it, Irshad Manji makes the perfect intelligence asset. Even if she is not directly employed by CSIS, she is in prime position to battle for the hearts and minds of Muslim students within her safer, more Western-friendly interpretation of Islam. Only a person like Manji will draw out a disproportionate amount of "fundamentalists" who have read the Koran 7000 times and interpret it literally. CSIS could easily have agents show up to her campus speeches in order to observe the reactions of Muslim student associations.

Of course, Manji has been called every name in the book, and I would not wish to add "spy" to that list. However, touring campus speakers serve to draw people out of the woodwork who would otherwise not voice their opinions. Furthermore, she tours campuses across Canada, and this is just why she makes the perfect Islamic intelligence gathering asset. Manji is just one of many possible hypothetical examples of how students can be monitored, shaped and molded into state-friendly agents. Beware: Big Brother is watching you.

University should be about learning



DAVID
BERRY

"Now I'm not saying we should immediately go chopping all our funding from athletics just to save a few bucks. I'm just saying that I would much prefer something that was academically inclined over, say, our swimming team, and as a matter of priorities, athletics should be fairly low on the list."

Perhaps I'm old-fashioned, but I've always thought of university as a place that should be primarily for higher learning. Sure, there are clubs and fraternities and bars around to enhance the experience, but, in general, you should be in university because of some desire to learn more about the world around you, in whatever field you happen to be most engaged. A quick look around our campus, however, reveals that my view of what a university should be clearly isn't based on experience.

For proof, you needn't look much further than one of our upcoming referendum questions, by which I'm referring to our athletic department and their Legacy Fund. Now don't get me wrong, I don't really have anything against athletics—this is just a matter of priorities.

Being as how we're a university, and not a training ground for amateur athletes, it seems quite strange to me that we should be paying a levy to let our athletic teams travel when we're closing down reading rooms in our Sociology and Political Science departments.

I mean, I understand it's only seven dollars a year, but seven dollars times the roughly 30 000 students enrolled here is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$210 000, or more than enough to keep the power on and

still staff a few librarians in either of the aforementioned reading rooms. While we're on this point, since the University is currently facing a \$28 million deficit, why don't we solve part of this problem by axing some of our athletic teams? Or, for that matter, all of our athletic teams?

Now I'm not saying we should immediately go chopping all our funding from athletics just to save a few bucks. I'm just saying that I would much prefer something that was academically inclined over, say, our swimming team, and as a matter of priorities, athletics should be fairly low on the list. I realize this smacks of the intellectual elitism, but as I mentioned before, we're a university: if we're not intellectually elite, who is going to be?

Now, that aside, athletics is a relatively minor issue when it comes to the problems associated with the definition of what a university should be. One of the ironies of the Legacy Fund campaign is that the man opposing it, Steve Smith, is a business student; if there is one glaring problem with what the meaning of university should be, it is best represented by the faculty of business and its equally misguided brother, engineering.

The essential problem with both of these faculties is that they're little more than job training facilities

on campus. There is nothing more inherently nutritious in an institution which should have knowledge and learning as its end than these extended training programs that change it entirely to a means. University should not be about getting a job; again, this is intellectual elitism, but job training is the reason why we have colleges and technical schools.

University should be about knowledge for knowledge's sake—about, just maybe, bettering yourself as a person, not training yourself to be a drone. There are plenty of people around who can do mental, white-collar jobs, but it would be nice if there were a few more that could understand string theory or Nietzsche, and that's what the university should be about.

I realize this is fairly elitist view, and that many students gain a lot more from athletics or the business faculty than they ever would from sitting through a class on Milton. But the point is that the term "university" holds some connotations: in this case, academic and intellectual connotations.

Just as you wouldn't expect to go to a football game and see a spelling bee, you shouldn't be going to a university if you're not in it for the intellectual pursuit.

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Get off your collective ass and vote



ROSS MOROZ

This Wednesday is the first day of voting in this year's Students' Union election. If historical precedent rings true, a large majority of you will be spending tomorrow napping, drinking in RATT, updating your live journals and/or watching *American Idol*—basically going about your lives and doing anything other than voting. Last year a paltry 5296 of you—just shy of 20 per cent—voted in the SU elections, and for the past decade, voter turnout has hovered more or less around that level. If, as the Sun reported last week, one in four U of A students does indeed have an STD, it would appear that the contagious outnumb the democratically engaged here on campus.

Most of the non-voters are either disinterested or "too busy," but at least a few of them probably choose not to vote because they don't feel represented by any of the candidates. And while I think that everyone ought to vote, I sympathize with people who feel like the candidates don't have anything to offer them, especially this year.

This year, there are only two candidates for president, and they aren't exactly world apart. Jordan Blatz and Adam Cook are both white males in their early twenties. Both are enrolled in the faculty of business. Both are aligned with somewhat dubious constituencies. Their respective policies are kind of pedestrian: tuition hikes bad; cheap beer in RATT good. While space constraints—and, admittedly, attention spans—prevent much men-

"Thanks to a subtle change to the ballot, there is no excuse for not skipping a tanning appointment or logging off of MSN long enough to get out and vote. Anyone who is as turned off by the state of student democracy as I am can simply do what I am going to do: vote for None of The Above."

tion of the other races, it is fair to say that, with some exception, the lack of different viewpoints, solutions and visions is endemic. In some races, it doesn't matter who wins.

Likely, a lot of students are planning not to vote because of this perceived futility. And in any other year, this lack of participation, while nihilistic, would have been a valid (if passive) way to protest. But not this year. Thanks to a subtle change to the ballot, there is no excuse for not skipping a tanning appointment or logging off of MSN long enough to get out and vote. Anyone who is as turned off by the state of student democracy as I am can simply do what I am going to do: vote for None of The Above.

That's right; this year, in all races, voters have the option of voting None of The Above. And apparently if None of The Above wins in any category there will be a by-election, which would presumably trigger scores of wacky and gonzo characters to run, Governor-of-California style. With that in mind, voting None of The Above is probably the most democratic option available in this election. Nothing would open up the democratic process more than seeing the electorate saying "thanks, but no thanks" to a whole slate of clones.

It would be irresponsible for a Gateway columnist to advocate for a specific candidate, but since this is a call to vote against everyone, I'm probably in the clear, ethically. So consider this a rallying call. Get out there and vote tomorrow. If there is

a candidate whom you support and believe in, then by all means, vote for her or him. If not, vote against everyone. Force a whole new election. Make candidates work for your vote. Throw the SU into chaos. Change the face of student government, and still have time to catch *American Idol*. Now that's democracy.

THE BURLAP SACK

This beating goes out to the whole SU bureaucracy that misprinted the SU election forum date for the second year in a row.

The day-planner that so many students grabbed the first day of classes places the forum on Tuesday 2 March, but yet again it is actually a day earlier. For all the lofty words I heard expressed on Monday (having to rely on word-of-mouth to actually go on the right day), you'd think a simple thing like a date could be settled and printed a few months in advance.

Shape up people; you've lost an audience and you complain about turnout and apathy?

CLAIRE BOULON

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



The Doctor is in!

This, my friends, is the official drink of the Opinion section. Just think of our sexy Managing Editor, but in liquid form.

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Politics: it's about the lesser of two evils



MELVIN BACKSTROM

Ralph Nader's recent decision to run in this year's US presidential election poses some interesting questions for Canadians, especially given the possibility of a federal election here in the next couple of months. Considering Nader's candidacy in the 2000 presidential election was the single most decisive factor in Bush becoming President, there has been a strong movement on the anti-Bush side of the very polarized US political divide to get him not to run thus hindering the likelihood of another Bush presidency. Nader has responded to this argument, insisting that there is little substantial difference between the Democrats and Republicans and that his candidacy is a necessary antidote to the "corporate interests" that control them both.

But, given the obviously different decisions that a President Gore would have made over the last three years, this argument is rather hard to accept. Gore was far from perfect, but then politics is never about perfection; it's about pragmatism—choosing the lesser of two evils. It's not exactly a pleasant reality to accept, but, except in totalitarian dictatorships, willingness to compromise is the necessary prerequisite for political engagement.

Here in Canada, with the Liberals

finally paying the price for their numerous screwups over the last ten years and the merger of the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties, the result of the upcoming federal election is actually an uncertainty. Even the NDP under Jack Layton has made something of a resurgence, though the best they could still hope for would be a minority government in which they held the balance of power. Otherwise, the Conservatives are the only other party with a possible chance of forming a government and challenging the Liberals' status as Canada's "natural governing party."

Even the NDP under Jack Layton has made something of a resurgence, though the best they could still hope for would be a minority government in which they held the balance of power.

Nader, of course, doesn't have a hope in hell of winning the presidency, so other than for the expression of an incredibly narcissistic personality—thinking that the only way to promote liberal politics is to run for President—you have to wonder what he's doing it for. If I was American, I might have voted for him in 2000. I say "might" because it would have depended on whether I was voting in

a "swing state" or not. Since the US presidency is not won by whomever gets the greatest share of the popular vote but instead decided by the Electoral College—made up of state representatives equal to how many congressmen/women each state has in the House of Representatives and certain states reliably vote for a certain party—the presidency is always decided by the "swing states" that can go both ways. Florida was the most obvious one in the 2000 election, where Bush won by less than 600 votes and where Nader got over 100 000. If even five per cent of the people in Florida who voted for Nader had voted for Gore, Bush would be nothing but a historical footnote.

Nader could very well make the difference again, though, so if one's goal is to get Bush out of the White House, Nader's candidacy is at best a distraction and at worst Karl Rove's—Bush's campaign manager—dream.

So if the gun registry, the HRDC fiasco, the impoverishment of our military and the recent sponsorship scandal have finally convinced you that the Liberals need to be taught a lesson in not taking their governing role for granted, a vote for the Conservatives might be the best choice in a bad scenario. Just as in the US where my possible first choice of Nader would be sacrificed for a strategic vote for the Democratic nominee in order to get Bush out of the White House, so my desire to teach the Liberals a lesson may lead me to vote for the Conservatives.

A somewhat depressing scenario, but such is the reality of electoral politics.

Contrary to what the author claimed, evidence to *disprove* evolution is discovered all the time, as more evolutionary hoaxes are revealed. There are more creation scientists today than there were 50 years ago. We know from science that life only comes from life. All complex systems require intelligent design, therefore it must take a lot of faith to think that life is one big accident.

VICTORIA ROSS
Nursing I

Emulating men doesn't make women equal

While I appreciate Patrick Sunderland's attempts to promote the idea of equality in his "Gender equality no longer just a lofty goal" (24 February) opinion, I am compelled to address a few fallacies in his reasoning. I must question what he means by "gender equality."

Is gender equality attained when men and women wear gender-neutral clothing, hierarchical arrangements such as marriage and house-wifery are abolished, and the constructs of femininity and masculinity are forgotten? Or is gender equality when women have equal rights and opportunities in official policy, but not in practice, and women attempt to prove their potential as human beings by exclusively identifying with traditionally "male-intensive" qualities (such as "drinking 40s in the parking lot") as the article leads us to believe? Don't get me wrong, I am usually the first person to stand up and shout that women come in all shapes, sizes and types, but the ideal female Sutherland appears to be searching for one that Freud would have diagnosed with extreme penis envy.

Women feel as though they must prove their equality to men by adopting what our culture deems to be "male

traits." Is there no happy equilibrium between maleness and femaleness where both genders can meet? Can we say that we are truly equal when a notable percentage of his "little accountantes" will eventually abandon their hard-earned careers to care for children because their husbands worry about what the neighbours would say if a male left the public sphere for the domestic?

Are the women of *The Apprentice* chalking one up for women's lib when they use their sexuality, instead of their intelligence, to win competitions? It seems uneducated—even dangerous—when we fool ourselves into thinking that gender equality is just within our reach.

So ladies, keep playing pool, completing Engineering degrees and running for public office, but don't take for granted that this society is going to place equal value on your innate human potential if you don't stand up and demand it.

AMANDA WISE
Human Ecology II

Quit stereotyping fraternity members

This letter is in response to the statement about Adam Cook in the 26 February "Streeters" section. I believe that it is important to note that a large number of successful past U of A Students' Union Executive members have been involved with fraternities.

When the average student thinks about a fraternity, the general image is of someone passed out next to a keg, or some clip from *Animal House* or *Old School*. While these are both entertaining movies, they portray a very biased and inaccurate image of fraternities. While fraternities (both men's and women's) do party just as much as other

University of Alberta students, there is also an enormous commitment to the wellbeing of the surrounding commu-

nity. As part of the founding principles of most fraternities on our campus, community involvement and betterment is key. Fraternities on the U of A campus contribute a substantial amount of volunteer hours and raise money for a number of local charities.

In the past, charitable contributions have included work for the Boys and Girls Club of Edmonton, the Kidney Foundation of Northern Alberta, work towards literacy, volunteering for the Oilers' Kids Fair and numerous others. The fraternity that Adam Cook is a member of is known as "the gentlemen's fraternity" and has a proud reputation—over 100 years old—as the international "anti-secret/non-secret" fraternity. He is a contributing member of a number of the community outreach projects and works very hard for the betterment of the campus community.

I personally would hate for an inaccurate reputation of the fraternities on campus to determine the voting behavior of the student body. It is incredibly important for students to educate themselves about the people who are contesting the executive positions of the SJU.

DUSTIN WENGER
Arts II

The Legacy Fund is valuable to athletes and students

I find the prospect of eliminating the Legacy Fund absolutely absurd ("Athletics Fund's future up to voters," 26 February). The only solid argument Business counselor Steve Smith can articulate is that it will save students \$6721 school year. You can't even park for a full day on campus for \$6721. The proposed mandatory bus pass will set most students who do not use public transportation back \$120,000/year, nearly 18 times as much money that will go straight to the city. At least the Legacy Fund is built

on the idea of students helping athletes and contributing to school pride and student life through athletics.

Let's take Smith's reasoning further. I never use any of the technology on campus, nor do I spend time in CAB or SUB; let's eliminate all of this funding. The majority of students at the University of Alberta would admit to using computers off-campus, and before SUB was renovated, only half as many people were using it anyways. I'm sure the Business Faculty would enjoy only using technology off-campus because I decided not to support their personal growth.

Without sports or technology on campus, students would be more inclined to simply read their textbooks and study at tables that no longer exist. This is a great plan—we can save so much money and donate it to something really important. Anyone up for voting in “The Steve Smith Idiot Fund: funding idiots since 2004?”

In the case of another over-achieving student making useless statements, mission accomplished but you're missing the point, Mr Smith. Tuition is going up regardless of the Legacy Fund. Fees are getting higher and education is becoming more and more elitist: get used to it. \$672 might be a lot to Mr Smith, but to athletes, it is an opportunity to improve play and move a step closer to success.

To the University, it means school spirit, a source of entertainment for fans, and possibly more funding from private interests that could lower tuition for students in the end. Vote to Keep the Legacy Fund on 3 and 4 March.

MARY LIZ HINTON
Phys Ed/Education IV

Don't misjudge fraternities

I would like to argue against Kristen Ostrowski's claim that because Adam Cook is a fraternity member this some-

how makes his run for SU President less legitimate or a "joke" ("Streeters," 26 February).

Adam is indeed a very legitimate candidate. He has been involved on campus for several years as a student leader and has excelled in his many roles, one being a member of his fraternity. I have worked with Adam in several capacities and his fraternity membership has, if anything, provided an outlet for him to improve his leadership skills.

Arguing that Adam is a joke candidate because he is a "frat guy" is as fallacious as arguing that Jordan Blatz is a joke candidate because he is a "Lister dude." Prejudging people based on the communities they are a part of only weakens the campus community as a whole. The fraternity community, for example, has produced several important student leaders

The debate about fraternity stereotypes is tired and I would invite anyone who chooses to subscribe to these stereotypes to visit a few different fraternities (men's or women's) and see what they are all about. Campus communities have a lot to offer students and I would suggest that if you have a problem with one person or student group from that community to not let that bias you against the community as a whole.

JAMES KNULL
Arts III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.



Think of the less fortunate this Lenten season

GERARD
MCLARNEY

serves as a pointed reminder of the luxuries often taken for granted, whether they are technological or something as basic as clean, running water.

While Lent is specifically a Christian season, the spirit of fasting and charity it encourages is of great value for our wider society. Indeed, the developed world, which is so imbued with consumerism, direly needs—and longs for—some reprieve from the continuous encouragement to purchase and use goods and services. The future progress of the global community undoubtedly depends on such a Copernican shift in our consumerist ethos. Abstinence and giving are the seeds needed for such a transformation.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of Mexico, a recent invitee to the U of A's Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights, spoke in a follow-up talk about the future of the Church and society, particularly in regards to the unjust disparity between rich and poor. He expressed the need for a transformation among the rich (as individuals privileged to receive a post-secondary education, I am assuming that we students, students of the future elite, are slotted into this category). A threefold solution was offered by Ruiz: first, prayer for the wealthy is called for. Second, the pocketbooks of the rich must be affected, perhaps through almsgiving. And most importantly, a hands-on experience of poverty is required.

Lent offers a foretaste of doing without, but it falls short of the actual experience of poverty. The classic example of changing one's world perspective, lucidly illustrated by Scout Finch in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, is to walk a mile in the shoes of another. Such is the hope for the people of the developed world converting from individualistic consumerists to solidarity with the masses who have no clean drinking water, adequate shelter or medical care. The disparity is not purely across continents. Within major municipal centres in Canada, or many First Nations reservations, the disparity between the "haves" and "have nots" is jolting. The nickel-and-dime collection this Lenten season points to one way a small step in this journey can be taken.

Last Wednesday marked the opening of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, a cinematic portrayal of the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's life. The publicity and media attention has been passionate as well, if a little embellished. But quietly lingering behind all the controversy and commotion lies an important religious celebration: the solemn Christian season of Lent.

The Passion was released to coincide with Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, a six-week period in which many Christians fast, give alms and pray. The 40 days of Lent come to a climax with Good Friday and the beginning of Easter. Easter marks the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ, the foundational tenant of Christianity.

Beyond the underlying theological significance of Lent for Christians, this season enriches Canadian society in many ways. Analogous to the Muslim fast of Ramadan, or the Hindu festival of Shivaratri, Lent adds further colour to the multicultural mosaic of our diverse nation. These periods of anticipation often extenuate the central beliefs and practices of the various religions.

Importantly, the 40 days of abstinence from foods or drink and giving excess wealth to the needy also reminds Christians of the privileges available to most Canadians. A lifestyle awareness calendar, labeled "Share Lent," encourages individuals to set aside a nominal amount of money each day to donate to the needy in Asia, Africa and Latin America. On 15 March, for example, the "Share Lent" calendar asks for ten cents for each light bulb in one's residence; 25 cents is asked on the 23rd for each email sent the previous week; another day asks for a nickel for each videotape in the house. As the donation total accumulates, it



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POSTER SLAM 2

- ✓ DELUSIONS EXPOSED
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- ✓ NO F*#KING PLATFORMS

Since the dawn of time, man has yearned to create the perfect campaign poster; one that, among other things, is at once aesthetically pleasing, informative and doesn't make the candidate look too fat. The search continues this year, as the hallways are once again slathered liberally with thousands of smiling, smarmy young go-getters yearning to be your next under-appreciated Students' Union Executive, and in keeping with the tradition, the Gateway's panel of crack poster-judging commandos is there to critique the selection and determine their successes and failures.

This year's panel consists of Daniel Kaszor, who holds a master's degree in kerning and tracking from Cambridge; David Berry, who boasts a doctorate in glossy paper from MIT; and Chris Boutet, who was kicked out of his preschool in Yellowknife for expressing his artistic genius by drawing on the walls.

1 Dan: Alright gentlemen, I propose we start with the posters for Vice President (Student Life). Chris, do you have any first impressions?

Chris: Well, I expect people who care about this position also like words, because there sure is a whole fuckload in this collection of text-heavy posters.

Dave: I agree: how are these people supposed to energize our student lives if they can't even spice up an 11x17 piece of paper? Take **Mike Schwake**, for example: that's his whole life story right there. Did he expect people to stop in the hallway and read that? That's what handbills are for, buddy.

Chris: Hey, and check out the action shots in that one poster: there he is in an airplane, in a car, at some sort of function where he had to wear a suit—looking a man on the go.

Dave: Yeah, well, maybe he should have stopped at a printing place; these are obviously photocopied, and subsequently the cheapest-looking of the bunch.

Chris: And Mike, while few will disagree that having size 18 shoes is damn impressive, that doesn't necessarily make you a good member of the Exec; it just makes you gigantic.

Dan: What about **Tyler Daigault's** poster? From the expression on his face he sort of looks like he's ashamed to be using up your time.

Chris: The layout on this one is pretty pedestrian—the whole "I'm just a regular student like you" shot combined with a band of colour and a few main campaign points—but I have to admit, the first thing that strikes me about this is that his website is "tylerforvpstinkertrain.net". Sounds dirty. I'm going look that up right now [walks off].

Dan: Yeah, it sort of sounds like he wants to pee on you. Possibly on a train.

Dave: But in a good way, right?

Chris: Alright I'm back, turns out that while tinkertrain sounds exciting and possibly erotic, it's actually really boring. And speaking of boring as hell lets look at **Duncan Taylor's** poster.

Dan: Hmmmm. Green.

Chris: Yep, that's green, alright. Duncan looks fairly genial hanging out in the aglor atrium, but I must admit, although we usually stay away from critiquing the candidates' platforms, I'm finding Duncan's a little odd. Dave: Look at this first statement, "Closer ties to help promote student group activities and" ... "And" what, buddy? "And to teach them to finish their sentences"? He must have been distracted by an especially interesting squirrel or something when he okayed this.

Dan: Anyhow, on to **Carmen** ... Um, what's her last name again?

Chris: I don't know; it doesn't say on the poster.

Dave: Maybe that's what she's looking out into the distance for.

Chris: Judging from her "fight the power" shirt, it's probably "Guevara." But anyhow, Carmen's poster also seems to be taking some interesting liberties with the English language. Right in the first line, she proclaims that she apparently has plans for something called a "heath care plan," which will surely be a boon to all students named Heath.

Dave: She is also planning on introducing a sweatshop-free campus—a move that I think is great, because man, I'm tired of making rugs in my English 345 class.

Chris: And from the look of determination on her face, I think she may be confused on what position she is running for. Carmen, I know you mean well and want to make the VP SL job actually meaningful, but do you realize that in five months you'll be looking whatever shitty band Nickelback just signed for yet another under-attended WOW dance, right?

2 Dave: Okay, let's keep this suck train rolling. Next up, VP (Academic). In this race, we have two candidates, **Vivek Sharma**, who looks to be in it tough against the glowing, deity-like **Lisa McLaughlin**.

Chris: Sweet Christ, is that poster ever optimistic. Again, like with Carmen, I almost feel sorry for some of these people. Sorry, Lisa, but do you really think the position of VP (Academic) is really that shiny and beautiful? I just hope you like reviewing exam policies and going for lunch with the Provost every now and again.

Dan: Actually, you can't say too much bad about McLaughlin's poster; it's uncluttered, aesthetically pleasing, and very well-designed. Perhaps a little too well-designed.

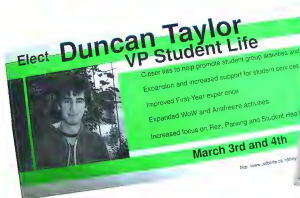
Dave: Well, she does have God on her side.

Chris: Vivek, on the other hand, obviously didn't have any help with his posters, Yikes.

Dan: I'm getting a headache. Is this poster supposed to be a square with sideways stuff on it, or a sideways square with



004



Power Up The Plant!



For Vice President of Operations and Finance

regular stuff on it?

Chris: It's clear with this look that he was going for Colin Agur's diamond posters of yesterday, but seriously, where is the fucking plane of reference on this thing? You can't just cram a bunch of words at different angles on a sheet and call it "design."

Dave: Yeah, and look at the string of allegedly "candid" shots he has on this. Apparently this is what happens when you smack Vivek in the balls with a cattle prod.

Dan: And his secondary posters, what's with all the space on top? While I do like the comics, which are obviously drawn by Gateway cartoonist extraordinaire Jen Koskela, overall Vivek's material is sadly uninspired and generally lame.

3 Chris: Anyhow, on to the race for VP (External). Not a bad crop of posters, but what sticks out for me the most is the slogan on **Heather Wallace's**: "Communication, Organization, Enthusiasm, What the f#%k else do you need?" Hey, Heather, how about a "#f%k" platform?

Dan: There's not much I can say about this fairly run-of-the-mill poster, but if you're forcing me, it's, uh, definitely a different shape than the rest of them.

Dave: I agree. Clearly not square.

Chris: Yes, but what is square, really? I'm not much for the colour scheme on this one—at all, I know, maroon is the red-headed stepchild of well, red. That's all I got.

Dan: Well, on to Alex Abboud, the least blatant of the two direct copies of Mat Brechtel's poster from last year, which of course was itself a rip-off of Hudem's poster from the year before.

Dave: He's also ripping off Brechtel's now-famous "I have a boner" look, albeit more subtle and poufy this year—and he really ramps it home with his repeated use of the word "solid" in the text.

Chris: Pushing for meaningful student loan reform always makes head.

4 Dan: Me too, pal. But you know what totally doesn't give me a boner? VP (Operations and Finance) Alvin Law's "Power up the Plant" poster. Good god, man, is that MS COMIC SANS? No, no no no no, no.

Chris: Alvin, Alvin, Alvin. We've got a lot of questions for you, buddy. Like, what the hell are you doing to that building in the drawing you apparently commissioned from a remedial grade school for people who draw with their feet? And is that even you?

Dave: And what's with your campaign promise to take randomly selected students out to lunch? You do know that kidnapping is illegal, right?

Chris: Maybe it's just me, but I can't imagine why anyone would want to spend an hour being bored out of their skulls by some hack who shoots lasers from his hands at buildings. But how about **Josh Bazin's** poster? If you had an infinite number of monkeys working on an infinite number of posters, they would have crapped this one out in about five minutes.

Dan: Seriously, Josh, you did just break into Brechtel's house and steal the template for this poster, right?

Dave: At least both of our Op/Fi candidates know how to save money, whether it's getting your retarded god to draw your poster or just shamelessly ripping off past candidates so you don't have to use those costly designers.

5 Chris: Let's get away from these and onto the best designed group of posters, the BOG rips. On the one hand, we have a balding white guy using blackplatin to sell himself, and on the other hand we've got a troll-haired man-monster extolling the virtues of Communist China and the way of the Kung-Fu.

Dan: The most impressive thing about **Roman Kotovych's**

poster is that it makes him look like a badass, which, if you know Roman, is really quite impressive.

Dave: This is clearly the poster of a man who knows he's going to win. No platform, no point, just Roman standing in front of closed Juice Fare looking like one bad mother—

Chris: Can I tell you guys you both suck? On the other hand, **Mike Hunka's** posters are clearly those of a man who doesn't know he's going to lose horribly. Mike, you could have taken advantage of Roman's lazy incumbency and put any sort of ideas or mission statements on your poster. But no, it's you and your big fat lapels.

Dan: Anyone who has the support of Communist China can't be that bad.

Dave: Voting you in will no doubt be a "Great Leap Forward," Mike. And we know how well that worked.

Dan: His other poster looked pretty cool until I realized it's in 72 dpi. That's such a newbie mistake, even Vivek and Alvin used vectored text.

Chris: Oh Daniel, you hopeless nerd. Don't you have some sort of social life to lay out?

6 Dave: Hopeless nerds, eh? That sounds like the perfect segue to talk about the presidential candidates.

Chris: Like so many other posters we've seen today, these are pretty workmanlike; there's nothing that really jumps out at you and says "Vote for me, dinkwaller! I wanna be President!" One noticeable omission is the lack of campaign material on **Jordan Blatz's** poster. But he sure is a happy guy! We could use more of those in office. All smiling and shit.

Dan: Ahhhh! Orange!

Dave: This looks like a really boring poster that someone put a lot of effort into making not boring and failed miserably. Even Jordan looks like he'd rather be somewhere else. Like Disneyland, for example!

Chris: Or at the University Hospital getting his stomach pumped after another Lister pub crawl.

Dan: Just kidding, most Lister kids don't do that. They are very active, positive members of our campus community.

Dave: The more you know (wink)

Chris: But on to **Adam Cook**. You'd think a poster that talks about focused leadership would feature more of a focused picture.

Dave: They're probably trying to disguise the fact that Adam is wearing the same sweater he always wears. Maybe if he gets to be President he can buy himself a new one.

Chris: Whatever. This poster put me to sleep. So now, after much deliberation, we've chosen our favorite and least favorite posters.

7 Chris: I'm right off the bat going to pretend that Alvin Law's "power up the plant" poster shouldn't count, because it's so clearly below all the other posters on pretty much every level. That said, my vote for worst poster goes to VP Student Life candidate **Mike Schwake**. His material is confusingly laid out, way too text-heavy, colourless, and he's clearly obsessed with pictures of himself in poses chosen to make him look like a fun-loving guy. My choice for best poster is a close call between Roman's and Hunka's Communist China one, but in the end I have to go with Roman's. He pretty much nails the design theme he was going for, there isn't anything out of place stylistically. Really eye-catching and smart.

Dave: My least favorite would have to be Vivek Sharma's layout is weird and confusing, he has an obvious hard-on for blue, and those "candid shots" are just too painful. My favorite poster is easily Roman Kotovych's BOG poster. However, I want to give an honourable mention to Lisa McLaughlin's VP

Academic poster; it was simple, subtle, and instantly recognizable.

Dan: My least favorite is Vivek Sharma's, as it looks too much like that weird square time-prison that trapped the villains from Superman II in the Phantom Zone. My favorite was Roman's as well. I was going to choose another one, but Roman would slap the taste out of my mouth if I did.

OVERALL BEST POSTER: ROMAN KOTOVYCH

OVERALL WORST: VIVEK SHARMA



Students' Union Employment Opportunities



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For [REDACTED]
Interview [REDACTED]

Athletic Coordinator
Reports to the VP External. Responsible for the U of A Athletic teams. Term 30/04 and Jan 2/05 - March 31/05. In office time. Positions currently open. Remuneration \$100/month. For further information contact the VP Student Life. Interviews Wednesday March 31, starting at 5:00 PM.

Community Relations Coordinator
Reports to the VP External. Works with organization of the U of A. Assigned to recruit members of the community to the Students' Union and the U of A. Minimum office time 10 hours/week. Salary \$100/month - August - April. For further information contact the VP External. Interviews Wednesday March 31, starting at 5:00 PM.

Student Life Coordinator
Reports to the VP External. Works with the program of the U of A. Minimum office time 10 hours/week. Salary \$100/month - May - April. For further information contact the VP Student Life. Interviews Wednesday March 31, starting at 5:00 PM.

For further information contact [REDACTED]

Required to attend and record accurate minutes of all U of A Council meetings. Position currently open.

[REDACTED]

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Volunteer Opportunities

Boards & committees

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[REDACTED]
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Inter [REDACTED]

ACCESS FUNCTION

- requires 3 student leaders
- deals with eligibility guidelines
- handing out of Students' Union
- will also work on the marketing aspect

For further information contact the VP of [redacted] at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 8, start [redacted]

DS COMMIT

[redacted] 4 student-[redacted] members
 [redacted] the recipient [redacted] Students' Union Involvement [redacted]
 [redacted] for information [redacted] the VP Academic Janet B [redacted]
 [redacted] scheduled [redacted] April 9, starting at 5:00 [redacted]

[REDACTED] BRO [REDACTED] COMMITTEE

[REDACTED] State [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] financial donations to various
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] VP External Chris S.
[REDACTED] April 9, starting at 5

EXTENDED

*create [redacted] projects or
interest and concern
[redacted]
[redacted] communitarianism

[redacted] meeting at 5:00 p.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS BOARD.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hockey

The **Pandas** (20-0-0 Canada West, 4-0 playoffs) claimed their sixth conference title in seven years this weekend, sweeping the Regina Rams by scores of 4-2 and 3-0. Blueliner Jill Chmilar led the Pandas attack by potting three goals and adding an assist, while goaltender Robyn Rittmaster held the fort to pick up the shutout on Saturday. The Canada West title was the only thing on the line this weekend however, as both teams advance to the National Championship tournament that starts 11 March in Montreal.

Volleyball

The **Pandas** had a grand weekend on the court, capturing this year's Canada West title. The Pandas defeated the Manitoba Bisons in five sets, 3-2, on Friday to set up a match with provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos. The game was a thrilling contest, as the teams went blow for blow until the Pandas emerged victorious after a close fifth set to capture the title. On a roll, the Pandas will enter the CIS National Tournament in early March with a good chance to win the championship.

The weekend was far less thrilling for the **Golden Bears**, however, as they dropped their first match in the Final Four Tournament to Saskatchewan in four sets, 3-1, on Friday and were forced to play for the bronze. The Bears atoned for the loss with a sweep of Trinity Western in three sets (3-0) in the bronze medal game to move on to the CIS National Tournament along with every other team from the weekend's Canada West Championship tournament.

Track and Field

The **Pandas** captured bronze at the Canada West Championship Meet in Winnipeg this weekend with some strong sprint finishes, including Krissy Doelling's lone gold medal for the Pandas in the 300m dash. Sue Kupper placed second in pole vaulting, as did Heather Hughes in the 300m dash, Elaine Hau in the 600m dash and Sarah Hoyles in the triple jump. Kupper, Hau and Hughes also united to bring home silver in the 4x200m relay.

Meanwhile, the **Bears** came home with bronze from the ultra-competitive Canada West Championship meet, where only 30 points separated first from third. However, this place was a slide from their second-place finish last year and a big drop-off from the National Title they captured in 2001/02.

There were a few bright spots for the Bears however; Antoine Boussombo bested the field in both the 60m and 300m sprint contests. Also adding to the gold shipment was Kelsey Kelemen, who won the 300m dash, and Neville Wright, Rob Fisher, Mark Cocks and Chris Clare, who teamed up to capture the 4x200m relay.

Basketball

The Calgary Dinos put a wrench in the **Golden Bears** plans this weekend in their divisional championship, which took place in Calgary's Jack Simpson Gym. The Bears won the first game of the series 74-64, but then proceeded to drop the following two by scores of 70-58 and 67-53, thus losing the series 2-1. Bears Guard Mike Melynychuk recorded more than 18 points in each game over the weekend, leading the team in scoring.

Despite the loss, the Bears will have another opportunity to win the Canada West title, depending on the outcome of their wildcard match against UBC this weekend. A win against the Thunderbirds would give the Bears a chance to participate in the Canada West Final Four tournament, which will take place in Brandon next weekend.

ROSS PRUSIAKOWSKI
Sports Staff



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS (left) Pandas setter Larisa Cundy with an impressive dig, (right) Pandas left side Tawana Wardlaw is given her medal.



IRIS TSE

Pandas clinch Canada West volleyball title

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

After a dramatic showdown between the two premiere women's volleyball programs in Western Canada, the Pandas claimed the Canada West conference championship over the University of Calgary Dinos in five sets Saturday night in the Main Gym. The Pandas will now continue from the action this weekend to Saskatoon for the CIS Volleyball National Championships.

Saturday night's matchup left no one disappointed, as the 650 fans in attendance were treated to a classic battle between two squads bursting with talent. The Pandas thrilled the home crowd in the first set, as they stole what seemed to be a certain Calgary victory, rallying from a 2-19 deficit to win 26-24. After dropping the second

set 25-21, the Dinos turned the tables on the Pandas and took the next two sets. The fifth and deciding set was familiar territory for the Pandas, and they got out to an early lead and withstood a late Calgary run to win 15-12. First Team All Star selection Tawana Wardlaw felt that she and her teammates had the situation under control throughout the match. "We never panicked," said the third-year power hitter. "We're a patient team, and we've had so much experience winning the fifth set, and we're so confident in ourselves and our ability that we don't let it affect us when we get in a situation like that."

Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler expected nothing less than what Calgary gave them Saturday night. "It was two very good teams just going hard and playing great volleyball. Neither team held anything back," said Eisler. "When a team

rallies like they did [in the first set], it shows the character that they've got." Saturday was significant for Eisler because along with the Western championship, she was named the Canada West Coach of the Year for the second consecutive time. Eisler was quick to share the credit for the recognition—something that seems to be the standard for this Pandas team. "I thank my colleagues for selecting me, but I think [the award] is a reflection of this team and the work they put in, and I have the best coaching staff in the country," she said. "I share the award with a lot of people, and it's a nice thing to win, but we're after other things here."

The Pandas will be in Saskatoon this coming weekend in search of their first CIS championship in four years, along with Can West qualifiers Calgary and the UBC Thunderbirds.

Hockey Pandas win Canada West championship over Huskies, extend undefeated season

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

It was little more than a tune-up for the national championships, but it turned out to be a good one for the Pandas as they defeated the Saskatchewan Huskies in two games to win the Canada West hockey championship for the third straight year.

Coming into the weekend on a roll after upsetting the Regina Cougars in the semifinals, the Huskies took the play to Alberta's end for much of the weekend. The result was perhaps the Pandas' toughest weekend of the year, but they managed to hang on for 4-2 and 3-0 victories on Friday and Saturday nights to preserve their perfect record (24-0-0 including playoffs).

Both teams had already clinched berths in the national championships, but the conference final was still an important step, both in terms of winning a banner and building momentum going into nationals.

"We were going to nationals anyway, but it's still nice to represent your conference," said Pandas head coach Howie Draper, who was honoured after Saturday's game for being named the conference's coach of the year. "There's a little bit of psychological momentum there, and had we not won Canada West, that could have detracted from what we brought to nationals."

The Huskies provided a tougher than expected test, and early in the second period of

Friday's game they took a 2-0 lead on a pair of goals by right winger Andrea Zabloski. It was the first time all year that Alberta was down by more than a goal, but the Huskies were subsequently unable to fend off the powerful Pandas offense. Although it was the most success her team had had versus the Pandas this season, Huskies head coach Donna Reaburn wasn't satisfied with the performance.



STRIDING AHEAD Panda forward Kaye London.

"We've had our games with Alberta where we get really smoked, so when you look at it that way maybe I should be happy," she said. "But no, I thought the girls had a lot more to give, and the mistakes they made weren't acceptable at playoff time and going into nationals."

But Pandas blueliner Jill Chmilar, who notched three goals and two assists to lead the weekend's scoring, says Saskatchewan should be credited for stepping up as much as they did. For the Pandas, she believes it was the kind of experience they'll need to begin the defense of their CIS title at McGill University in nine days.

"Earlier in the season they didn't really challenge us that much, but just the fact that they beat Regina shows that they deserved to be here," she said of the Huskies. "They definitely challenged us this weekend. It's not going to be easy to win a gold medal in Montreal, and this helped us prove to ourselves that we can do it."

Draper was impressed with how his team handled the series, and agreed that the Pandas showed they're ready for nationals. "I think [Saturday] was the best game we've played in the last three or four weeks," he said. "It just seemed like we had some consistency again. We were more responsible defensively for the most part, and we certainly earned the win."

The Pandas now have next weekend off before heading to McGill University for the CIS Championships 11-14 March.

Legacy Fund and non-conference games on trial in upcoming referendum

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

Thirteen years after its creation, the Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund is facing elimination in a referendum being put to voters in this week's Students' Union election.

Voters will be asked if they support the elimination of the \$3.36 per term fee that supports the fund. Created by a referendum in 1991, the fund provides approximately \$150,000 per year to match each of the Golden Bears and Pandas sports teams' fundraising, and is used primarily to host and travel to non-conference tournaments.

SU Business councillor Steve Smith, who initiated the referendum process on Students' Council and is leading the "Yes" campaign, says that he decided to target the fee after encountering hostility to it during his failed campaign for SU President last year. He believes part of that hostility is because a large portion of the university's \$50.24 athletics and recreation

fee already supports varsity teams as opposed to general campus recreation, such as the often overcrowded Van Vliet Centre weight rooms.

"I take issue with that, and then the SU perpetuates it by collecting an additional fee for athletics. I view campus recreation as something that's more useful to more students, and I think there are a lot of students who feel like they don't derive any benefit from varsity athletics," said Smith.

Fifth-year Bears basketball post Kevin Petterson, who's leading the "No" campaign, argues that athletics do benefit the campus community as a whole rather than just the Bears and Pandas. He points out that athletes have been involved on campus through events such as "Touchdown for Tuition" in January, but also suggests that there are indirect benefits for the student body.

"Athletics obviously provides a tremendous amount for the students who participate in it," said Petterson, who's also the president of the University

Athletics Board. "But for the other students here, we add to the feeling of community on campus. Even people who don't go to athletics events, when they hear about our teams winning they still feel a little bit of pride."

U of A athletics director Kim Gordon says that her department also benefits students in various other ways, from offering discounted tickets to being the largest employer of students on campus. While she says she sympathizes with the rising costs of attending university, she argues that the Legacy Fund fee is so small that it's more than worthwhile.

"I understand the student's concern with the fee, and with all the fees," Gordon said. "But part of me says, \$3.36 is less than the cost of a beer."

"It's easy to say it's just a small expense," Smith countered. "But we can't continually ignore small potatoes, because they pile up and soon you've got the entire Prince Edward Island economy."

But Gordon suggests that supporting the university's stellar athletics program pays off. She claims that the U of A, which has won more national championships than any other Canadian school since 1991, has the best athletics program in the country, and she attributes much of that success to Legacy Fund-supported non-conference play.

"Look at UBC women's hockey," she said. "They don't have any road trips, and I don't like to slam another team, but they're just not prepared. They can't build a team. Teams have to have non-conference play to prepare them for league play so that they're competitive."



BASKETBALL The Bears fell short in Calgary against the Dinos, losing the game series 2-1. The team won the first game 74-64, but dropped the next two games 70-58 and 67-53 respectively.



VOLLEYBALL The Bears lost in the first round of the final Canada West tournament to Saskatchewan in four sets, 3-1, on Friday. They qualified for the CIS national tournament however, by defeating Trinity Western 3-0 on Saturday.



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BERNOW



FILE PHOTO: ROBIN COLLUM

YES* MAN AND DR *NO Steve Smith (left) and Kevin Petterson (right).

Don't vote away the 'City of Champions'



JOEL
CHURY

Sports
Editor

When I moved here from Calgary in 2000, I couldn't help but snicker at the infamous "City of Champions" sign I passed on my way in. Something didn't seem right; after all, it'd been so long since this city had anything hoisted triumphantly above its shoulders. But I've since realized that while the Oilers were having troubles with the Dallas Stars and Eskimo fans were missing Tracy Ham, the U of A was chugging along with a success rate that no other varsity program in the country could live up to; during these troubled times, the Bears and Pandas were pulling more than their weight to keep the champion spirit of this city in place.

Growing up in Calgary, the idea of a champion spirit seemed foreign, yet it didn't take long to realize the impact that sports can have on city-wide morale. Regardless of whether you are a sports fan or not, it's hard to ignore the impact an Oilers playoff appearance has on this city. This became apparent to me when the Oilers missed the playoffs in 2002 and the city seemed flat. Last season, the Oilers returned to the playoffs, and Whyte Ave became energized. After each of their two wins, the city became Party Town, USA, and even those who couldn't care less about sports were able to enjoy the vibe.


To apply this thought to the University of Alberta, the success of the varsity sports program doesn't get the attention that the major sports leagues do, but when a talented athlete chooses a path to take in their University career, the school's reputation becomes a bigger factor. Along with the lure of playing for a winner, athletes coming to this school know that they'll have the highly beneficial opportunities to travel and experience playing teams from outside their

normal scheduled play. Non-conference play like the exhibition match the Pandas volleyball team played against Japan's University of Tsukuba or the Bears Can-Am challenge give the teams not only experience, but exposure.

Just like our debate club, model UN or the Residents Hall Association, the athletes are ambassadors for our school. Like the Oilers and Wayne did for Edmonton during the '80s, successful sports teams put a city on the map. And considering the microcosm that is this campus, the Bears and Pandas do represent our humble student community. Unlike the world of professional athletics, our teams are made up of students just like us. Their wallets aren't any fatter than ours, they still have to write mid-terms, and they have to wait in line just like us to either get their parking passes or to step onto the bus. They also have to fundraise in order to go on their trips.


This week's SU elections feature a referendum on the legitimacy of the Legacy Fund, which matches funds raised by the athletes to play in non-conference competition. Since it was established in 1991, the University of Alberta has won the most CIS championships in the country. The \$3.36 per semester levy has allowed athletes to travel to many places around the world, playing against a variety of international opponents. It has also allowed the school to help bring in teams from other schools that otherwise couldn't afford to travel here to play in our tournaments, thus preventing all of our tournaments from showcasing only NAIT, Calgary and Lethbridge. Playing formidable opponents only better our chances for success when it comes to playoff time.

It's not about filling our rafters with more banners so much as it's about providing the most well-rounded experience we can offer. Our athletes learn and grow through their careers here, while we get the opportunity to watch the highest calibre of varsity athletics in the country. It wasn't until I moved closer to the campus that it really hit me that this really is a city of champions, and we have the Bears and Pandas to thank for annually keeping that alive.



POWERPLANT
restaurant & bar

**Different Nights
Different Tastes**

 **A Service For Students, Staff,
Alumni And Guests**

The Brown Panther takes a swipe at the Canadian music industry

Danko Jones

with guests
Wednesday, 10 March
Kings Knight Pub

MIKE LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Brown Panther, The Mango Kid, Doctor Evening: Canadian rocker Danko Jones may go by many names, but when rock 'n' roll legends The Rolling Stones choose you to open for them, your album garners international success, and you do it all without any help from your home country, it really doesn't matter what you call yourself.

"It was such a thrill," Jones says excitedly of the time he spent touring with the Stones. "I knew for a fact that they chose us personally [because] my roommate managed to get into Mick Jagger's private birthday party in Toronto, and he didn't have a present for him so he gave him our album. We never really heard from The Stones after that show, but there was an article in *Globe and Mail* that asked Keith Richards which supporting acts on the *Forty Licks* tour were his favourite, and he said the White Stripes and Danko Jones. It made my day. In fact, I've been vibing on that for a while!"

For a band that has played with rock gods and has produced critically acclaimed records since 1996, you would expect that Canadians would be eager to claim them as one of their own. On the contrary, Jones is quick to point out the struggle he's had with the Canadian music scene. "It's the industry's fault," he laments over the fact that while the band has a steady following in Europe, most Canadians don't even know they are still around. "[The record labels] don't let people know that we exist. Maybe there are too many things to do in the day—I don't know. Many people don't even know we have an album out, and it's been on the shelves since the first week in October. We do spend most of our time touring

in Europe, but we go where we're wanted, and we are wanted there over and over."

Danko's overwhelming success in Europe is anything but a craze. Over the years, the band has gained legions of fans, maintaining themselves as a fixture on the international scene. "A lot of people will think, 'You're big in Germany; big deal,'" Danko notes seriously. "Big deal? Germany has 89 million people. If there is anything that is a joke, it's being big in Canada. We're not interested in being the big fish in the little pond—we'd much rather be a small fish in a tiny ocean and go wherever we want to go. We have [record] deals all over the world."

"My favourite song on our new album, *We Sweat Blood*, is 'The Cross.' It's about the Canadian music industry and how I want to take 50 people—I can submit you a list but I won't—and see them nailed to an upside-down cross. Either that or fired."

DANKO JONES

While Danko's comments may betray a tinge of bitter resentment, his sentiment is anything but inaccurate. While massively popular overseas, their records are released through the small indie label Bad Taste Records and, ironically, the only place where Danko Jones is signed to a major label (Universal) is Canada—one of their smallest markets. Danko has never been one to mince words, and he places the blame for this paradox squarely where he sees fit.

"My favourite song on our new album, *We Sweat Blood*, is 'The Cross.' It's about the Canadian music industry and how I want to

take 50 people—I can submit you a list but I won't—and see them nailed to an upside-down cross. Either that or fired."

Despite having little love for the suits in the Canadian music business, the industry has consistently recognized Danko Jones's work, giving them their fourth Juno nomination as Best Rock Group this year. But just as frequently as they nominate them, Danko Jones falls short of winning. "It's flattering to get nominated, but we're not going to win," Danko says quite frankly. "We're up against Nickelback and Sam Roberts. They're probably going to win, even though I think that we're the only rock band in the category. We totally want to win, but we won't. It's fun to be nominated, though. You get a sheet, and you can frame it and give it to your mom. That's not bad at all."

Bitter? Maybe. Angry? Perhaps. But as much as Danko Jones has to gripe about in Canada, in the end it all comes down to the one thing that record execs can't take away from them: playing music. "If the audience gets entertained, we automatically have fun doing it. I think the reason our reputation for live shows precedes us is because we don't think about [performing], we just do it because we love the music, and I think people can really feel the genuineness when we play. That's the selling point, the love of rock and the love of playing it."



Club Dread offers subtle and clever horror satire



Broken Lizard's Club Dread

Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar
Starring Jay Chandrasekhar, Bill Paxton, Steve Lemme, Paul Soter and Erik Stolhanske
Fox Searchlight
www.clubdread.com
Now Showing

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

From the previews, not to mention some of the depressing attempts at sex and drug humour, it would be very easy to write off the latest movie from the Broken Lizard comedy troupe as a fairly lame teen comedy/horror. But to do that would be to entirely miss the subtle and very clever satire of horror movies that is going on here—as unbelievable as this may sound, *Club Dread* has layers.

The movie is set on a tropical island para-

dise run by Coconut Pete, an obvious Jimmy-Buffet-type beach-bum played solidly by Bill Paxton. Though it's all supposed to be fun and games, naturally a psychopathic killer is running around in the island chopping up the assorted staff members, played by the Broken Lizard troupe (the same people who brought the world *Super Troopers*). The plot is quite literally that simple, but it's just the beginning of the satire.

In the opening scene, one character literally says "lick my chest while I smoke this joint," and then naturally is the first to die.

And it's definitely satire at work here, not its evil, twisted cousin parody. Whereas essentially every other horror spoof—or any spoof in recent memory, for that matter—blows things up to over-the-top ridiculous proportions, the boys of Broken Lizard have toned it down to the point where it wouldn't even be recognizable if you didn't know that that is what they're aiming at. Essentially what they've done—very cleverly, it should be noted—is made a very bad teen-slasher movie, but realized just how ridiculous everything that happens in it is and added some subtle tweaking to play off that.

In the opening scene, one character literally says "lick my chest while I smoke this joint,"

and then naturally is the first to die. If you weren't paying attention, you could easily pass it off as another lame joke, but if you look closer, you can see it's ridiculing an oft-used theme in slasher flicks: sex plus drugs equals death in teen horrors. Tricks like this abound throughout the movie, from making every character very obviously a suspect to the final scene that goes on too long with the villain that won't die. Again, this is all stuff that is so cleverly slipped in that it could easily be written off if you weren't thinking about it.

Now, all that cleverness aside, this movie still has its flaws; despite the borderline brilliant satire, there is also some annoying and fairly unfunny sex and drug humour throughout the movie that lacks any purpose other than to get people to laugh at sex and drugs.

It's disappointing to have to listen to two horny partyers talk about pot and getting laid, given how smartly the movie skewers the main points it's aiming for. Still, there is a dearth of truly hilarious moments—there isn't one scene that is funny enough to be memorable like the ones that abounded in Broken Lizard's earlier films.

This is a film worth seeing just to see how well a spoof can be done when in the hands of some relatively intelligent writers. If they managed to stay away from the more incessantly dumb humour, Broken Lizard probably would have crafted one of the smartest spoof films in recent memory, but as such it's just a clever satire that could easily be lost on you if you aren't paying attention.



How did Arnold get to be an action star and the Governor of a State with a population the size of Canada? He reads the **GATEWAY** A&E section every day to keep his finger on the pulse, that's how.

THE GATEWAY

Christ a passionate work

The Passion of the Christ

Directed by Mel Gibson
Starring James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Claudia Gerini and Maia Morgenstern
Icon Films
www.thepassionofthechrist.com
Now Showing

TREVOR NAULT
Arts & Entertainment Writer



The Passion of the Christ is quite possibly the goriest, most disturbing and graphic piece of violence to ever be seen on the screen, and whether or not you agree with Mel Gibson's politics involved in it, there's no denying that he's created an extremely powerful film.

Jim Caviezel plays Jesus in a story that revolves around his final hours, his crucifixion, and a few flashbacks that show up here and there to fill in the gaps. The first part of the film deals with his trial, which leads into a savage beating that leaves Jesus as a bloody pulp. At one point, a Romans' weapon gets lodged into Jesus' side, focusing the camera on his wound, pieces of flesh are ripped from his body when the soldier pulls back. During his crucifixion, there are close-ups of nails being driven into hands and feet as the sounds of metal being forced through bone and flesh accompany his cries of pain. There is absolutely no question as to what Gibson chooses to emphasize in his film: the physical suffering that Jesus Christ

suffers during his final hours.

The film's unblinkingly violent overtone has been the subject of quite the debate; after all, is it really necessary to showcase Jesus being tortured for 45 minutes? On one hand, the violence is somewhat overdone for entertainment purposes, but the manner in which it's presented is intrinsic to how it is received. Consider the *Faces of Death* video series: the collection offers viewers a chance to watch what are apparently real executions, alligator attacks and torture, among other things. Although the events are apparently real, there is an artificiality to them created by putting a camera in between reality and the viewer and making them watch it on a little box. When Gibson emphasizes this kind of brutality, he is, in a sense, humanizing it for us. In other words, it's more disturbing to watch Gibson's ultra-violence than it is to watch what is apparently real through an objective lens, which works to force viewers to sincerely feel for the suffering of Christ.

It's sad that, for many people, the film's real virtues are never going to make it past the violence. Really, this work is no different than the countless other forms of art that have something genuine to say, but can't make their message heard by those who can't handle the presentation. Many parents are ignorant about the incredible social consciousness of *South Park* because they can't see past fart jokes. Sure, their kids shouldn't be watching it, they're too young to get it, and the same could be said for *The Passion*: it's a movie not everyone will be able to sit through, but those who can will be rewarded with an incredibly moving experience.

Regardless, *The Passion of the Christ* is an amazing film that should be seen by anyone with any remote interest or connection to the story of Jesus Christ—and everyone else for that matter. Never has a movie been so powerful in expressing emotion, suffering and relaying what it actually might have felt like to be Christ.

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The Triplets of Belleville Soundtrack

Sony
www.sonyclassics.com/triplets

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

As should be expected, the soundtrack to *The Triplets of Belleville* is a lot like the movie: it's dynamic, ethereal, captures the essence of its era and is very, very good.

The simplest sound of the disc could best be called jazz, but to pigeonhole this soundtrack

into one genre would be criminal at best. While there is a definite jazz influence, it weaves together a diverse range of sounds, from some subtle Spanish guitar on the Oscar-nominated *Belleville Rendezvous*, to a classical tinge with Jazzy Bach and even outright West Coast American surf-rock on *Pa Pa Pa Palavas*.

This eclectic mix of sounds, wonderfully arranged by composer Ben Charest, drifts stealthily out of the speakers and envelops the listener in its brilliance. It's almost impossible to listen to this disc without literally feeling the music course through and around you, and anyone who doesn't begin to tap their feet or whistle along is either deaf or without hope. It's just that good.

On top of this, the soundtrack also manages to perfectly capture the spirit of the movie. Each song evokes its corresponding image, from the sad, overweight dog Bruno to the crooning triplets themselves.

All of this makes this soundtrack, again like the movie, eclectic, stirring and ultimately beautiful.

SITE UNSEEN

Turn Left

http://www.cjnetworks.com/~cubsfan/

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American political pundit Rush Limbaugh often accuses the news media of being controlled by a "vast left-wing conspiracy." Here in Canada, Regina MP Larry Spencer recently blamed the downfall of western civilization on a "vast homosexual conspiracy." And while it's convenient to see your opponents as conspiring against you, such rhetorical lunacy has been reserved only for the truly stupid and insane. Until now.

Thanks to this handy java applet, normal, intelligent people can create their own wacky conspiracy theory to quickly and easily explain away all their problems, just like Limbaugh and Spencer. The site features a madlib-style, fill-in-the-blanks form and whips up a truly inspiring conspiracy after you supply a few historical events, minority groups and concepts for it to work around. Then, it just takes a few clicks of the mouse to conjure up a theory that any skitso would be proud of.

So go to it. But you had better hurry—they're after you.

www.su.ualberta.ca/election04



Comedy and tragedy collide in *Measure*

Measure for Measure

Directed by Bob Baker

Starring Jon Alexandra Smith,
James MacDonald and David Scorch
Now Showing
The Citadel

CANDACE STEVENS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Measure for Measure, the newest offering from the Citadel, is a unique combination of two wildly contrasting elements: It's a dark, challenging drama verging on tragedy and a clever comedy full of sarcasm, double entendres, and even the occasional slapstick clown. It features a plot that could only be written by Shakespeare, and the 400-year-old play still has the power to get people talking. The problems examined are still prevalent today, as this psychologically complex play tackles the issues of sex and politics, raising many questions, including what the role the government has on controlling what goes on in their subject's bedrooms.

Measure for Measure is one of Shakespeare's least produced plays, which may be due to the fact that it raises unsettling questions that don't really get answered in the end.

The play, in its adapted form, takes place in 1912 Vienna amidst a breakdown in the laws of morality. The plaid duke Vincentio (James MacDonald) temporarily appoints his position to strait-laced Lord Angelo (David Scorch). The Duke tells Angelo that he is going on business to Poland, but he actually disguises himself as a friar to observe the effects of his absence. Claudio promptly begins a crackdown on the lawbreaking citizens of Vienna, starting with arresting the relatively harmless Claudio on charges of impregnating his common-law fiancée—an offense punishable by death. Claudio's sister, Isabella (Jon Alexandra Smith), is about to enter

the nunnery when, upon hearing of her brother's fate, she visits Angelo to beg for his release. Angelo falls for Isabella's virtuous beauty and attempts to strike a deal with her: he will release her brother only if she will give up her body to him for one night. Just in time to save her virginity, Isabella meets the duke undercover, and together they plan a bedside switch with Angelo's disgruntled fiancée Mariana (Kate Ryan) to trap him in his own game.

Measure for Measure is one of Shakespeare's least produced plays, which may be due to the fact that it raises unsettling questions that don't really get answered in the end. The characters don't learn their lesson or go on to make the world a better place; instead, they expose their flaws, and ultimately their humanity, and leave both intact. It's hard to imagine the exact plot occurring today, but the real examination here is on the wide grey area that separates what is right from what is wrong. After all, even in the most modern of mindsets, trapping a husband by pretending to be someone else in bed is not exactly an appealing character trait.

The comedic elements in the play helped to break up the deeper issues, and when the underworld of pimps and brothel madams also get their chance at center stage, you can't help but be totally entertained. The colorful supporting cast includes a pimp called Pompey (Ross McMillan), who is sentenced to an alternative career as an executioner's assistant, resulting in many hilarious moments. John Kirkpatrick also displays his comedic talents as the flamboyant and gossipy Lurio—an important character in the plot as he keeps everyone informed of the latest news—who also steals scenes by bragging about his own fictional sexual conquests any chance he gets.

Measure for Measure is a challenging play to produce, as it is one of Shakespeare's most controversial plotlines, but it still holds incredible power today by challenge audiences' beliefs by presenting a healthy dose of moral ambiguity. The comedic scenes add light to all this darkness, making a case for the fact that, in reality, good and evil do coexist, and, of course, they always make for an interesting night at the theatre.

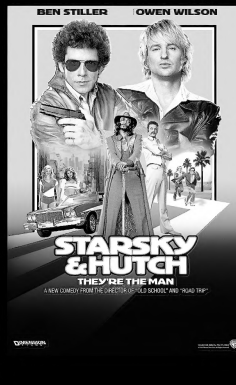


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In *Starsky & Hutch*, the origins of the charismatic crime-fighting duo David Starsky and Ken "Hutch" Hutchinson are explored when these undercover Bay City detectives are partnered for their very first assignment. Ben Stiller plays the tightly wound Detective David Starsky, who is thrown together with Owen Wilson's easygoing Detective Ken Hutchinson on a high-stakes case. Platinum-selling rapper and actor Snoop Dogg plays their savvy street informant Huggy Bear. The film also stars Vince Vaughn as a smooth-talking entrepreneur with an eye towards the future, and Juliette Lewis as his mistress. Carmen Electra, Amy Smart, and Brande Roderick play three cheerleaders who help the detectives crack the case.

The movie opens Friday, 5 March, but we want you to see it early! If you missed to scoring a double guest pass for the movie last Thursday, we want to invite you to a special second screening on Wednesday, 3 March drop by the Gateway office Tuesday any time after 1pm and name one other movie featuring Snoop Dogg.

THE GATEWAY
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Havana Nights adds substance to romantic fluff

DirtyDancing:HavanaNights

Starring Romola Garai, Diego Luna, Jonathon Jackson, Sela Ward, John Slattery and Mika Boorem
Directed by Guy Ferland
Lions Gate Films
www.dirtydancinghavananights.com
Now Showing

JENN FULFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You'd think that the people of Cuba would have more important things to do while their country is being torn apart by revolution than to hook up with sexy, young American girls and teach them to dance dirty. Well, according to *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights*, they don't. Following in the footsteps of its predecessor's tired rich-girl-meets-poor-boy plotline, *Havana Nights* has all the potential in the world to be a miserable failure.

Surprisingly, however, with a few minor twists to the setting, director Guy Ferland has successfully updated the flick into a visual treat that captures the Cuban people's passion for dance and sex.

The film is set in beautiful late-1950s Cuba in the midst of revolution; police brutality runs rampant in the streets as an uprising explodes, nearly ripping the country apart. It's in these heated, turmoil-filled times that newly-emigrated U.S. citizen Katey (Romola Garai)—a smart, sensible young girl from an upper-class family—meets the passionate Cuban waiter Xavier (Diego Luna). Armed guards hold

steady in front of the Cuban tourist hotels where an underground group of footloose youths meet to go "dirty dancing," and it's only a matter of time before Xavier's charming ways lure Katey into the lurid world of steamy footwork.

From the minute the two characters meet up, the story goes off on a wild adventure as Katey is submerged into the Cuban culture, leading her to experience the "real" Cuba firsthand. Katey runs across a street dance on her way home from school where Xavier is cutting the rug with the local people; it's a scene that in stark contrast to the conservative backdrop her life had previously been played out against.

Innuited by Xavier's sizzling steps, Katey is taken by the spectacle until she is jolted back to reality with police forces flooding the streets to violently arrest potential rebels. The melodrama, however, only serves to heighten Katey's intrigue for Xavier and Cuba's more mysterious side, which leads her to seek out clubs like La Rosa Negra to dance the night away.

Unfortunately, just like the original *Dirty Dancing* starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey, not only is the story formulaic, it's also full of the same stereotypical story and characters; a rich, young girl falling for a poor, forbidden boy to the dismay of her parents isn't exactly groundbreaking stuff. But one thing the sequel does do is achieve something that the original didn't: it adds some historical context to a film that is primarily all about sly dance




HOT PEOPLE LIVE IN CUBA Who cares about revolution when you can just go dirty dancing!

moves and thundering music, and on top of that it features phenomenal actors.

The revolutionary undertones have a welcome dramatic effect, and gone are the cringe-inspiring "dialogue" sequences of the original, adding a bit more personality to the overdone

storyline. Diego Luna pulls off the vibe of a cool Latin kid that respects his family and country, and he turns the lead character into more than just a pretty face. Garai likewise displays more charisma than her predecessor in a role that portrays Katey as being both sexy and smart.

If you're into Latin music or dancing, this will probably be an enjoyable flick for you. But aside from that, *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights* has enough actual film-making to even appeal to those who normally don't go for the straight-up romantic fluff.



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Musiq
Soulstar
Def soul
<http://www.defsoul.com/musiq>

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

On the inside of this CD case, the rather poorly-named Musiq is sporting a t-shirt that says "Soul Rebel." This label is fairly accurate, if by "Soul Rebel" you mean "writes songs that have absolutely no sense of rhythm whatsoever." If that's your definition, Musiq is the Ché Guevara of soul rebels.



Falconhawk
Hot Mouth
Independent
www.falconhawk.com

ASHLEY SCARLETTE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In today's alternative music industry, there are two things that are apparent fixations: chicks playing

Seriously though, there are a frighteningly high number of songs on his latest release that it sounds as if he is reading, or singing, rather, off the world's most cheery romantic Chinese food menu. Most of his songs are about as smooth as riding a square-wheeled tricycle down a gravel road.

And in the few songs Musiq has figured out the wonders of meter and its uses in the English language, he's singing lyrics that are painfully horrible. Just the very song titles, such as *Womanopoly*, where he actually throws in frequent references to the properties on the Monopoly board, and *Romanticapion*, which manages to be both trite and slightly offensive.

All this is a shame really, because the man can actually sing. The best song on the album is a cover of the Rolling Stones' *Miss You*, in which Musiq brings enough soul and funk to convince you that this song should have been remade by an R&B singer. Really, so long as he's not writing his own songs, he's alright.

the piano, and the return of the synthesizer as more than just an '80s synth-pop tool.

The nice thing about Falconhawk's album, *Hot Mouth*, is that it kills these two birds with one stone: the unfortunate thing is that it is quite possibly the only positive thing that the album has to offer.

The record is merely an unconcentrated, safe, mish-mash of unimaginative lyrics, repetitive melodies, weak vocals and synth tracks, which most likely took no more than two minutes to dream up.

Although the individual band members might be rife with talent, they need to be a little more daring and push the music further instead of playing it safe and pumping out a CD that is no more than boring to listen to.

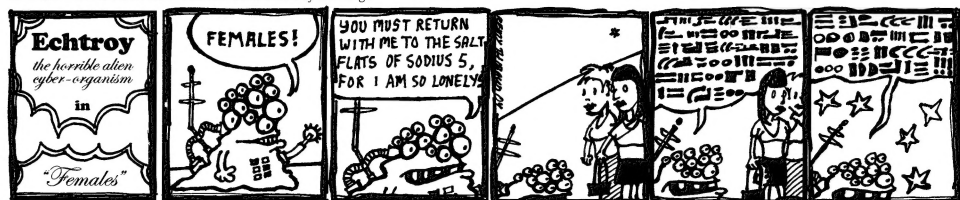
VARSITY HAPPENINGS by Bill Benson



FIVE-MINUTE FEELINGS by Chris Bouteit



ECHTROY THE HORRIBLE ALIEN CYBER-ORGANISM by Dave Leiriger



TEEN JESUS by Tyler Daignault and Sarah "Hockeystick" Hanasyk



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latest Warren Miller ski movie by putting on a showing at the Horowitz Theatre, Thursday, 11 March at 8 pm. For the price of \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. There will be prizes available and sponsor booths set up in the lobby. Omitted last week was the fact that in addition the Rugby club will be selling a package deal—if you buy ten or more tickets, we will sell them for \$5 each.

Happy Bob Knows is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. Happy Bob Knows is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. Happy Bob Knows does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or open to the public. Incomplete forms will not be used. Submissions will print for one issue only. Entry deadline is 3pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in). Submit to the Gateway Offices (3rd, 4th, third floor SUB) or fax to 492-6665 or email production@gatewayualberta.ca. No entries more than 300 words please.

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LOST AND FOUND

Lost on Thursday, Ladies silver and blue Fossil watch between ETLIC and Lister Hall. 439-6972.

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THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

Julia's Campus Recommendation of the Week Vote.

Steph - Happy 21st Bday! (even though its kinda late) Hope you had tons of fun on Friday. From...Sponge Bob Square Pants!

Hey R-squared, haven't been driving lately have you? Wouldn't want us to loose anyone "flying friends" now...

ChillWACK-such fond memories of state patrol...be careful! Looking forward to the next alphabet game!

Dumbass-did you get your rabies shot yet? Super fun times with PKT! When do we leave again?

You are truly "The Shit" you know? Trip wouldn't have been the same without you! I nominate you to lead adventure 2007!

Jo, tried any more "bing" on lately? We'll buy some next trip! Super fun times in the back of the van...keep in touch eh?

Yeah, I'm back LG. Next time you have to come with me. It's an order!

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www.dawnofthedeadmovie.net

HAPPY BOB KNOWS

Campus events and more...

The Academic Support Centre presents several seminars.

•"How Good Are Your University Study Habits?" takes place on 9 March from 2:30pm to 3:30pm or on 10 March from 11am to 12pm in SUB 2-702 for the price of \$20. This seminar covers how to discover your learning style and strategies for success at University.

•"Tips for Reading Efficiently" takes place on 8 March or 9 March from 12:30pm to 1pm in SUB 2-702 for the price of \$5.

•"Make the Best Use of Your Memory" takes place on 6 March from 1pm to 3pm in SUB 2-702 for the price of \$30.

•"Read Textbooks the Expert Way" takes place on 6 March from 10am to

12pm in SUB 2-702 for the price of \$30.
•"Effective Class Presentations" takes place on 6 March from 1pm to 3pm in SUB 2-702 for the price of \$30.
All seminars must be pre-registered for at 2-703 SUB.

The U of A Women's Centre presents

Menstrual Awareness Week between 2 March and 5 March. For all the bleeders (and friends) come out to festivities.

•"The Politics of Menstruation" on Tuesday, 2 March at 5pm in Humanities 4-29.

•"Alternative Menstrual Products and Reusable Pad-making Session" Wednesday, 3 March at 5pm APRG office (Hub Hall).

•"Herbal Healing for Women" on Thursday, 4 March 5pm in Humanities 4-29.

•"Natural Fertility Awareness" Friday, 5 March at 5:30 pm in Humanities 4-29.

The U of A Law Rugby Club presents the

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Application forms may be obtained in the Campus Recreation Directors' Office Rm. W4-10, Van Vleet Centre or ONLINE at: www.campusrec.ualberta.ca

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Friday, March 12, 2004 @ 4:30PM



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